Thomas named 11th president of WIU

Jack Thomas, provost and academic vice president at Western Illinois University, has been named the University’s 11th president, effective July 1.

“I am honored to have been chosen to serve you, our alumni and friends, as Western Illinois University’s 11th president,” said Jack Thomas. “You have made this an amazing University because of your commitment to and passion for WIU. I look forward to visiting with you in the coming months and years.”

“We would like to express our appreciation to the presidential search committee for bringing forth an impressive slate of candidates. After the on-campus interviews and meetings with each candidate, the board determined that Dr. Thomas was the candidate who would continue moving Western forward and build upon the excellence and accomplishments we’ve been fortunate to experience during the past 10 years,” said Michael Houston, chair of the WIU Board of Trustees.

“We are so pleased to have Dr. Thomas serve as the 11th president of this great institution. He is a proven leader and is a dedicated educator. Dr. Thomas is clearly aware of—and ready to tackle—the issues facing higher education,” Houston added. “He has great enthusiasm and the motivation to continue Western’s reputation for excellence.”

The board set Thomas’ annual salary at $250,000, plus $25,000 in a retirement annuity. He will succeed Al Goldfarb, who will retire June 30 after nearly 10 years as WIU’s 10th president.

“This is a very humbling experience, and I am honored to be chosen as the 11th president of Western Illinois University. I am so thankful and blessed,” Thomas said. “I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their confidence in me, the presidential search committee for their diligence and President Goldfarb, my fellow presidents and the University community for their support.

“I came to Western because I believed in its mission and vision. I believed in this institution’s values and its commitment to students. If it had not been for public universities like Western, I would not be where I am today,” he added. “I know I have big shoes to fill. Dr. Goldfarb has done an excellent job in making sure Western is at the forefront, and I plan to continue to enhance the recognition of our great University.”

Thomas has served as provost and academic vice president at Western since January 2008. Under his leadership, WIU has developed new academic programs in engineering, nursing, anthropology, museum studies and religious studies. He also enhanced the academic program review process; rebuilt and revitalized Western’s summer school program, including offering more courses, both on campus and online; supported new accreditation or re-accreditation for 15 academic programs; expanded articulation agreements with Illinois and Iowa community colleges and select four-year institutions; and increased online course offerings. Under his direction, the University has increased external grant funding and has developed underrepresented dissertation fellowship, visiting professorship and post-doctoral fellowship programs.

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As president-elect, I plan to work with all constituencies to continue to move this outstanding institution forward as a leading university in Illinois and beyond the state’s borders,” Thomas noted.

Previously, he was the senior vice provost for academic affairs and professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Murfreesboro, and also served as the vice provost for academic affairs and as the interim dean of the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning at MTSU. Prior to joining the MTSU faculty, Thomas was a professor of English at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Ann College.
Dear Alumni & Friends:

We are pleased to introduce President-Elect Jack Thomas to you. He is very excited to serve our great University and is truly looking forward to meeting you all! I hope you can join us in the coming months at an event in your area, as President Goldfarb is attending many of them, where he will personally introduce Dr. Thomas to you. You will also then have a chance to say farewell to President Goldfarb, who will retire June 30.

Best wishes for a great spring, and if you have a chance to call in to update your information for our directory project, we would greatly appreciate it!

From the President

With each event that I attend and with each letter or column that I write, I realize that I’m getting closer to June 30, my final day serving as your president. Since I made the announcement of my retirement almost two years ago, it seems as if the months have passed so quickly.

It has been terrific seeing so many of you at alumni events in the fall, and so far this spring, I look forward to the next few months of visiting with you, and introducing you to President-Elect Jack Thomas. It was with great excitement that the WIU Board of Trustees named Dr. Thomas as Western’s 11th president. He has served as our provost and academic vice president for the past three years, and I am confident he will be an outstanding president.

While we had many achievements during the fall semester, we have also faced challenges. First and foremost is the continuing cash flow situation. Western is waiting on FY ’11 reimbursements from the State of Illinois of approximately $31 million. We continue to control expenditures and conserve resources in order to continue providing outstanding educational opportunities, and meeting payroll obligations. We are relying a great deal on our income funds, which include tuition and fees. We will continue to work with our state legislators and the comptroller’s office in an effort to take the burden of the lack of state funding off the back of Illinois students and their families. Please know that I greatly appreciate your support during these difficult times.

It is truly amazing just what Western has accomplished thus far despite fiscal uncertainties. Western’s School of Nursing recently achieved status as a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education-Accredited Nursing Baccalaureate Degree Program, and the On-Site Review Team from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has recommended re-affirmation of accreditation for Western Illinois University with the next comprehensive visit scheduled for 2021. Because of its commitment to veterans and active duty service personnel, Western has been accepted as a charter member of SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society, and nearly 1,000 students earned academic degrees after the Fall 2010 semester. The University has completed an accessible elevator/entrance project at the University Union, and the newly-renovated Memorial Hall opened this semester. Behind-the-scenes improvements continue on our heating plant and steam line tunnel projects, and the Corbin-Olson renovation is underway.

I am proud of our dedicated faculty, staff, students and alumni for their continual efforts in making WIU an outstanding university. Thank you for your continued support of Western.

All my best wishes,

Al Goldfarb
An up-lift-ing achievement
Student sets world records in international competition

By Alison McGaughey MA ’10

Like many college students, Sophie Simmons (Macomb, IL) found herself feeling a bit restless during a break from school. But instead of channel-surfing or sleeping in, she got involved in a new sport. And not long after that she set a world record in it.

Simmons, a senior exercise science major at WIU, recently brought home the record for her age division and weight class at the American Drug Free Powerlifting Federation (ADFPF) World Championships held in Castleblayney, Ireland. Simmons was among 300 competitors from 20 nations competing to lift the most total weight over a set of three lifts, a squat, a bench press, and a “dead lift.” The 21-year-old in the 58.5-kilos (or 123-129-lb) weight class lifted a total of 656 lbs.

“It was incredible,” she said of the experience. And as if that weren’t stunning enough, the Macomb native dropped this tidbit of information: “I’ve only been doing the sport for a little under a year.”

While Simmons may have mastered the art of power lifting in record time, she has been competing in athletic endeavors since childhood, starting with gymnastics at age seven, which would lead her to winning national titles in power tumbling.

“I’ve done track and pole vaulting, I love dance, cycling, swimming… I like to do everything,” she said.

Still, she had never heard of power lifting until last fall, when she was looking for motivation and happened to visit the workout room at the Salvation Army Community Center in Macomb as part of a kinesiology class. There, she met two retired WIU, a physical education professors, Judy Gedney and Roger Gedney, who encouraged her to look into the sport.

Judy, a WIU Athletics Hall of Fame Gymnastics coach, has competed in power lifting for 40 years. She and Roger Gedney, both former gymnasts, encouraged Simmons to look into the sport and begin training for power lifting.

“I had been doing triathlons, but triathlon season ends when it gets cold, so I started working out there,” she explained. “I want to work with people and make a difference by coming up with practical ways to incorporate fitness into peoples’ lives.”

Despite this show of physical strength, Simmons says one of the things she’s most proud of actually happened after the competition: she traveled around Ireland on her own.

“It was the first time I’d traveled out of the country,” she said. “It was really humbling going to a different country, realizing how much I didn’t know about the world. At the meet, I had to make an effort to meet people and go out of my way to talk to the other athletes, who were from places like Ireland, England, Italy, Sweden, Poland, and Germany—I’m friends with some of them on Facebook now.

“I’m proud and happy about it, but honestly… it’s a sport you can do your whole life. I might pick it back up, but not for awhile. I do still weight-train, but I’m not sure what my next endeavor will be. If you’d told me five years ago you’re going to be a world champion at power lifting, I’d be like ‘no way.’”

And despite her success, Simmons says she won’t be returning to power lifting training right away. “I’m proud and happy about it, but honestly… it’s a sport you can do your whole life. I might pick it back up, but not for awhile. I do still weight-train, but I’m not sure what my next endeavor will be. If you’d told me five years ago you’re going to be a world champion at power lifting, I’d be like ‘no way.’”

I like challenges. Everything I do is 110 percent. I don’t go halfway into something.

I also got to spend a day in Dublin, which was so exciting. I really was proud and surprised at myself.”

So, now that she’s conquered the world (or at least the world championships in her sport), what’s next?

“For the next semester, I just want to concentrate on figuring out where I’m going to graduate school!” she laughed.

For now she is concentrating on reading her application materials for Arizona State, where she hopes to study exercise and wellness programming. She hopes to prepare for a career in corporate/workplace health and wellness teams.

“I want to work with people and make a difference by coming up with practical ways to incorporate fitness into peoples’ lives,” she said. “I’m enthusiastic about it because fitness and exercise is my life.”

And despite her success, Simmons says she won’t be returning to power lifting training right away. “I’m proud and happy about it, but honestly… it’s a sport you can do your whole life. I might pick it back up, but not for awhile. I do still weight-train, but I’m not sure what my next endeavor will be. If you’d told me five years ago you’re going to be a world champion at power lifting, I’d be like ‘no way.’”

So who knows where I’ll be in five years.

“I like challenges,” she continued. “Everything I do is 110 percent. I don’t go halfway into something.”
**Education and Human Services**

**J.Q. Adams: 2011 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer**

J.Q. Adams, educational psychology professor in Western Illinois University’s department of educational and interdisciplinary studies (EIS), will present the University’s 2011 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on the U.S. Census and American identity.

Adams will deliver the lecture, “The U.S. Census: How Its Racial Categories Have Shaped American Identity,” at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31 in the College of Fine Arts and Communication Recital Hall, located in Simpkins Hall, on the WIU-Macomb campus. He will address the WIU-Quad Cities campus at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 7 in Room 102.

“I will examine the historical context of the U.S. Census and the role its racial categories have played in shaping the way Americans think of themselves. From the first census in 1790 to the most recent census in 2010, the repetition of some identity categories and the temporary inclusion of new ones reflect uncertainty about who is to be considered white, non-white or something in between,” Adams explained.

Through his presentation, Adams will also consider the work of the early census architects, the secretaries of state, whose role was to insure the accuracy of the census as well as its completion.

“I will also bring forth the influence media, science, religion and, most importantly, economics had on the social construction of identity in the early Republic and during the Civil War. This will address the dynamic shifts in immigration patterns that influence the changing face and changing census categories of America today,” he added.

Adams joined Western’s faculty in August 1988. Before coming to WIU, he served as director of Minority and Intercultural Affairs at Joliet (IL) Junior College, and at Illinois State, where he was the director of the College of Education’s Urban Education Program. He also was the community coordinator and team leader for ISU’s Teacher Corps Project.

At Western, Adams regularly teaches “Multicultural and Social Foundations of Education,” a required course for education majors. Among the graduate courses he teaches are “Implications of Diversity for Educational Leaders” and “Social Change and the Multicultural Aspects of School,” courses he helped create and implement.

Shortly after being appointed a faculty associate in WIU’s Office of Faculty Development (now the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research), Adams led a small group of faculty in the development and approval of a course in cultural diversity, “Group Diversity, CAS 210,” which became a multicultural requirement in WIU’s general education curriculum.

In the 1990s, Adams developed and taught “Dealing with Diversity,” a 24-hour teleclass produced at Governors State University (GSU) and distributed through the PBS Adult Learning Service. The PBS Adult Learning Service also distributes the revised 2001 version of the course. Because of the success of the first two versions, a third has recently been produced and is currently being offered online through GSU.

Adams co-authored the grant, “Expanding Cultural Diversity in the Curriculum and in the Classroom,” which the Illinois Board of Higher Education awarded Western annually for more than 10 years before adding the $50,000 to WIU’s annual fiscal budget. Projects sponsored through the grant have included eight anthologies that Adams co-edited, more than 15 annual conferences he co-directed, and several video and DVD initiatives for which he served as researcher and on-screen instructor or interviewer.

Adams’ “Effective Strategies for Learning and Teaching about Diversity in the USA,” a 10-hour course on DVD, offers an in-depth exploration and evaluation of the structure of society as it impacts schooling.

In addition, Adams co-directs Western’s annual Dealing with Difference Institute, and he has led numerous cultural diversity workshops both on- and off-campus.

Adams received the 2009 G. Pritch Smith Multicultural Educator Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) and the WIU Provost’s 2009 Excellence in Multicultural Teaching Award. In 2008, the College of Education at Grand Valley State College (MI) recognized his accomplishments through its Distinguished Alumni Leadership in Education Award.

Adams earned his bachelor’s degree in social studies and psychology from Grand Valley State College, his master’s degree in alternative education and psychology from Indiana University and his doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Western Illinois first presented an annual lecturer award in 1969 to honor an outstanding faculty member whose professional development in research or creative activity, teaching and service to the University represent the highest standards of the academic community. In 1998, the award was renamed the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

‘Attention, class: Namaste.’

Education professor trains teachers to use ‘Tools’: breathing and balance

By Alison McGaughey MA ’10

Yoga mats are for sale in large chain stores. And yoga pants are a part of many peoples’ weekend wardrobe. So it’s likely safe to say that, as WIU Professor Andrea Hyde puts it, “Yoga is so mainstream now.”

But what might be surprising to some practitioners of the popular pastime is that yoga has moved beyond the health club to traditional public school classrooms, with kids as young as Pre-K feeling the flow.

Hyde, an assistant professor in educational and interdisciplinary studies who teaches at the WIU-QC campus, is part of an initiative to incorporate yoga into students’ daily lives as a means to improve everything from building self-esteem to curbing disciplinary problems.

“Yoga education is gaining interest and popularity in public schools, especially at the elementary level,” said Hyde. “Yoga teaches people how to be completely well: emotionally, psychologically, socially and physically. I would even add spiritually and ecologically, as well.”

As a faculty member at WIU, Hyde teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the foundations of education, including socio-cultural, philosophical and legal. As a certified instructor in a program called Yoga Ed., she regularly teaches the Yoga Tools for Teachers workshop, which combines basic yoga techniques in simple sequences to help teachers reduce their own stress, as well as create harmony in their classes.

“Health science research suggests that yoga and meditation can decrease school behavior referrals,” explained Hyde, who received her Ph.D. in social and comparative analysis of education from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. “The research also shows that they can increase students’ ‘time-on-task,’ and improve academic performance by reducing stress. Yoga can also help teachers to manage emotional and physical stress. And school psychologists can use yoga as a complement to behavioral and medical interventions.”

Hyde knows first-hand the calming effect yoga can have on the mind. While doing her doctoral work in Pittsburgh, she relied on a regular yoga practice to help with the stressful experience of completing her dissertation.

“Patience and self-love were hard to come by at that time,” she said. “I’ve been practicing yoga for about 20 years now, and I’ve come to rely on it as preventative and curative medicine and therapy.”

While practicing at a studio in Pittsburgh, Hyde met the owner/director, who introduced her to Yoga Ed. She received training in the high school curriculum, qualifying her to teach yoga to high school students as well as the Tools for Teachers training.

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Education and Human Services

Alumni Q&A: Vian Neally ’96 MS ’02

What is your current position?
I am an assistant director for Student Development and Orientation (SDO) at Western Illinois University.

What positions have you held since graduating from WIU that have helped you in your journey to your current position?
My journey started in the Office of the Registrar at WIU in 1997. While working in this position, I was accepted into the Affirmative Action Administrative Internship program at Western. I credit Garry Johnson, vice president for Student Services and Cari Sheets MS-ED ’72, former director of SDO, as my mentors for molding me into the professional I am today in higher education. In addition to my position at Western, my husband, Joel, and I own the DQ Grill & Chill and Orange Julius in Carthage (IL). Although I no longer physically work in the restaurant, the national conferences are beneficial and transferrable for me in customer relations.

Explain your current responsibilities and how your position is personally fulfilling
My current position consists of a multitude of responsibilities, which is fulfilling in itself. When I’m asked to describe a typical day, my response is that there is no typical day. As soon as I plan to work on a project, it may be interrupted with a student needing academic or personal assistance, a graduate student needing direction or a crisis has occurred on campus. My former jobs consisted of routine tasks, so I greatly enjoy the variety of duties throughout the year. I coordinate and administer campus-wide orientation programs, events and procedures with campus staff, students and community agencies.

One of the most rewarding parts of my position is helping new students and families get acclimated to the University by presenting valuable information and resources at orientation programs and facilitating sessions. Serving as a valuable resource to students and families is an ongoing process, whether at programs, in person, on the phone, via e-mail or on social networks. It’s one of the reasons why I love my job. Anyone who visits my office knows I bleed purple and gold, with all the WIU spirit plastered on my walls and shelves. It’s a running joke that Western ‘exploded’ in my office. What can I say…I love Western! It’s great to be a Leatherneck!

Another personal fulfillment is working with graduate assistants, Orientation Team members, and Student Orientation Staff leaders. The process consists of marketing, recruiting, interviewing, selecting and training members. Some of the student leaders make lifelong friends from their experience while enhancing their leadership skills. It’s exciting to watch the student leaders start off as individuals and unite as a team through many hours of intense training.

It’s a different world than when I began this position, with our rapidly-changing world of technology. Attending national orientation conferences helps us learn what’s new out there for our students. It’s how I became acquainted with Facebook when it first began to catch on. This past year I created a fan page for our new incoming students for the Class of 2014. The students loved having a place to meet other new students as well as pose questions. It has been very engaging and interactive. Since it was so well-received, we created a Class of 2015 page. We also try to meet the needs of our students and families using technology at orientation programs.

In addition, I work with students needing academic or personal assistance as well as students contemplating totally withdrawing from the University. I communicate with and assist students, family members, faculty and staff on issues relating to student adjustment, retention and problems affecting class attendance.

What are some of the most interesting challenges you have had in your career?
Our office plays a major role working with the students, families, faculty and staff when the University faces any crisis or medical outbreak. Last year, we were challenged with the H1N1 virus. It started out being manageable, contacting faculty on behalf of students with flu symptoms. Once the outbreak hit the campus, we changed our policy, communicating to the entire campus and community. We also assisted with the disruptions on campus during a series of bomb threats (in Fall 2010). Western’s main priority is the safety of our students, but we were also flooded with calls and e-mails from concerned students and family members.

The University does an excellent job keeping everyone informed with updates through the Western Emergency Alert System (WEAS), as well as by notifying the local media and updating the University web site. With the WEAS, students choose whom they want to be contacted and how, whether it’s via e-mail, text or phone call. Our goal is to help students stay healthy and safe, and keep them academically focused, so they can receive the best education they can.

We are constantly seeking ways to reach out to students. They are accustomed to immediate response with information at their fingertips. Since we cannot monitor our sites 24/7, students get frustrated if they don’t receive a prompt reply and may continue posting inquiries. We attend national orientation directors’ conferences annually to stay updated on the current trends and topics.

Another challenge would be dealing with the current economy. We value feedback from our programs to enhance orientation and continue to be open to any ideas for new programs. Although we’re limited with the state budget constraints, we strive to be as creative as possible to offer the most resourceful programs for our students and families.

What led you to pursue a degree in instructional technology and telecommunications (ITT, now instructional design and technology, IDT) from WIU? How did this degree help you in your career endeavors?
After graduating from Western with my bachelor’s degree in communication, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in higher education and needed to further my education. I initially looked into the college student personnel program to inquire about attending part-time, but was disappointed to find that it was a full-time program. Therefore, I explored alternative programs that would be transferable and beneficial for my career path at Western, which is when I discovered ITT. After meeting with the department chair, I decided this would be valuable and a good fit for me at Western, and it has been. It allowed me to attend part-time while working full-time with a family at home.

What advice do you have for others who want to get involved with WIU?
Since I graduated from Western, I’ve always wanted to find ways to give back to the University for giving me a solid foundation. Besides contributing financially, there are numerous ways to fulfill that desire to give back. Networking with people you know at the University is a great way to get involved. Let them know you’re interested in getting involved. I remain active by attending alumni events, sporting events, charitable functions and campus activities, to name a few.

What advice would you give to graduating students? To what do you attribute your success?
Take advantage of getting involved with leadership opportunities to gain valuable experience. There are countless ways to get involved at Western, to help students pave their way into becoming a professional or prepare them for graduate school. Campus involvement goes hand in hand with networking which is essential to the students’ futures for mentoring, references, recommendations, and so forth. Make every experience significant. Even if students feel it’s not a good choice, find something positive or learn from it. Mistakes or poor choices may help you grow. Ask questions to develop your knowledge and be eager to learn. Be confident but humble. Don’t rule out post-graduate internships.

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Western High School Scholarship

Its doors have been closed for decades, but its spirit lives on in the hearts of alumni, teachers, administrators, employees and their families. Lab school alumni are continuing the legacy with a scholarship for deserving Western teacher education students.

Pictured above (l-r): Elizabeth Hommel ’72 MS-ED ’88, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction; Melissa Downin (Table Grove, IL), Western High School Scholarship recipient; and Darlos Mummert, associate professor of curriculum and instruction.
A Fulbright Footprint

Linda Loxley Meloy ’71, a Beardstown (IL) native and an alumna who has been a faculty member at Western for nearly 22 years, recently traveled to Nigeria via a Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) appointment. She returns there in March to continue her special education teacher-training work at Kwara State University, a brand new university helmed by a former WIU administrator.

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92

Lasting impact is one of the tenets listed on the Fulbright Specialist Program’s website. For Linda Meloy ’71—professor in Western’s special education graduate program in the curriculum and instruction department, child psychologist and appointed Fulbright Specialist—her goal is, indeed, to have such an impact for Kwara State University, a brand new institution located outside of Ilorin, Nigeria. Thanks to the FSP, her relationships with her former and current Western and education-field colleagues and her commitment to educating children, Meloy’s “footprint” at Kwara State will be the cornerstone of which her faculty and staff build their curricula and for undergraduate and graduate training programs for teachers of students with high-incidence disabilities.

Last fall, as an appointed Fulbright Specialist, Meloy traveled to Kwara State to advise the institution’s general and special education faculty members as they develop programs for teachers of students with learning disabilities, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and emotional and/or behavioral disorders. This spring, Meloy will travel back to Nigeria for an 18-day stint, during which she will continue her work with education and knowledge-sharing quest, which according to its website, is part of what the FSP is designed for: “to engage [U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts] in short-term collaborative two- to six-week projects at higher education institutions in over 100 countries worldwide.”

Laying the Groundwork

Meloy’s Nigerian journey began at Western Illinois University and in her 30-plus year career in special education. Through a professional relationship with Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, former chair of Western’s African American studies department (who is now the Vice Chancellor of Kwara State University) and through an FSP appointment awarded in 2010, she made the more than 6,000-mile trip last October and stayed through mid-November.

“This new university is being funded by the federal government and by Kwara state, which is one of the 36 states in Nigeria. Kwara State University has a brand new facility, which is expanding rapidly, and Dr. Na’Allah is bringing in people from all over the world to teach there, either for long-term commitments or short-term ones. While I was there, I met people from Norway, Italy, the U.S., Canada, Latvia and different places in Africa, as well as a lot of Nigerians who had either been in Canada or the U.S., who are coming back to teach at this university,” Meloy explained.

During her time there this spring, Meloy will continue her work in advising and training the new university’s faculty and staff, specifically the instructors who will be teaching students who are studying to be special education teachers.

“But Nigeria used to be part of the British Empire, its education system reflects the British model. They have nursery and preschools—a lot of children there begin schooling at the age of two. Then they have a primary school, which would be for students who are kindergartened through fifth or sixth grade. After that, students attend secondary school, which is about seventh through 12th grades. What is different, though, about all of Nigeria, is that they have differential levels of training for teachers. So to be a nursery school or preschool teacher, they only require a two-year degree for that level. Because 85 percent of brain development is complete in a child by age five, this is the most critical time period to have highly qualified teachers,” she explained.

Meloy added, for elementary school teachers in Nigeria, teachers are required to have a three-year degree, and for secondary teachers, a four-year degree is required. She noted that one of her biggest hopes—and what she has dedicated much of her FSP work so far toward at Kwara State University—is that all of Nigeria will be moving toward making the degree requirements the same for all the teacher levels.

“I don’t know how long that’s going to take, though,” she said. “They also haven’t yet embraced an inclusive model, in which kids with all kinds of disabilities are attending school near their homes and are educated there. This is going to take a tremendous amount of education and funding, as well as an inclusive mindset, to accomplish. It is also going to require the parents’ cooperation. And Nigeria is not unlike some other areas of the world, where parents are, many times, ashamed of their children’s disabilities, and so the idea of inclusion is in its fetal development, or at least in its infancy, and so is de-institutionalization.”

To help facilitate some of the goals of her training program, Meloy—who was interviewed on television, met with many Nigerian teachers and other university faculty individually and the commissioner of education in Kwara, as well as addressed a crowd of nearly 500 education professionals while she was there last fall—will meet with officials from Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Education.

“When I return, I will also be traveling to two international schools, where I will give daylong presentations about learning disabilities and behavior disorders,” Meloy said. “In addition to being doing a national conference in Abuja, Nigeria’s capital city, about the education needs for children with high-incidence disabilities.”

Part of Meloy’s preparation for her second trip to Nigeria includes her effort to collect books for school children, as well as materials for Kwara State University’s faculty. Currently, she is collecting resources for a school near the university, and has sent multiple research articles to faculty members, as many of them do not have access to resources like ERIC or other educational resource databases.

“When I was there last fall, I left a number of recommendations, and one was that, basically, they are not really ready to offer this program. At this point, they can’t train teachers to work with children with learning disabilities and behavior disorders if there are no jobs for them. And there are not going to be any jobs until the school system evolves to a point at which they recognize they have children with these disabilities,” she said. “I told them, ‘Right now, Kwara State University has to work on raising awareness with parents and educators via an awareness campaign.’ They also need to establish a child-development clinic, so they can accurately identify the children with high-incidence disabilities. They are currently working on funding for that.”

Meloy noted that Dr. Na’allah has already applied to have Meloy return, on a separate FSP appointment. It is a possibility, as according to the FSP site, “U.S. faculty and professionals apply to join a Roster of Specialists for a five-year term. Roster candidates are reviewed by peers in the same discipline, and by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.”

Meloy said she is taking a wait-and-see approach before she plans for that, however.
Welcome aboard!

University Libraries would like to welcome Noelle Ebert '07 as its new library specialist in the WIU-Quad Cities Library.

Ebert, who majored in English and minored in both creative and professional writing, is familiar with the inner workings of University Libraries. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Library and Information Science at Dominican University. During her time as a student at WIU, Ebert worked in what is now called the access services department.

“My job at the Malpass Library was my first chance to work on the other side of the desk,” she said. “There was always a stream of patrons who needed help, books that needed to be checked in and shelved and everything else that came your way. It was a valuable work experience.”

Ebert applied that experience after graduation by overseeing the circulation department in the Melick Library at Eureka (IL) College.

She is pleased to be back at WIU and University Libraries.

“I’m excited to have the opportunity to work with the students and assist them with their informational needs.”

In addition to sharing extensive online library services with the Macomb-campus libraries, the WIU-QC Library houses the Jeff Leibovitz Special Collection of Holocaust Educational Materials, which offers an extensive array of K-12 teaching materials and literature.

Visit wiu.edu/qc/library for more information or stop by the WIU-QC Library to meet Ebert.

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Students receive Graham Scholarship

The 2011 William and Eva Little Graham Student Scholarship recipients are Elizabeth Coplan (Macomb, IL) and Brandi Mounia (Macomb, IL).

Applicants were asked to write a short essay on the impact that working at University Libraries has had on them. Each received a $500 scholarship towards tuition for Spring 2011.

Coplan is a senior special education major. She has worked for University Libraries since 2007 and can often be found greeting visitors and answering the telephones in the administration office. Coplan’s essay described how working for University Libraries has furthered her education.

“I’ve gained many professional skills through the daily tasks I am given that have carried over into my college career and will continue into my profession as a special educator,” she wrote.

Mary Day, administrative assistant, couldn’t agree more. “Elizabeth has proven to be a valuable resource for our office and will be a lasting impression at University Libraries,” she said.

Mounia, a junior majoring in African American studies, works in the Physical Sciences Library. Her essay focused on the opportunities her student-worker position has provided.

“There are so many ways working at the library has enlightened my life, learning research tools, interacting with diverse cultures, and especially the ability to share my love of reading with my daughter...”

-Brandi Mounia

There are so many ways working at the library has enlightened my life, learning research tools, interacting with diverse cultures, and especially the ability to share my love of reading with my daughter...

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DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that anyone can access the Educational Resource Information Center (ERIC) database, which provides more than 1.3 million citations to educational materials?

Items included are journal articles, books, conference papers, etc. ERIC is sponsored by the Institution of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education and can be accessed free of charge at www.eric.ed.gov. There are more than 330,000 full text articles, and you can limit your search results to find them by selecting the “Advanced Search” button and then checking the “Full Text Availability” box.

In addition to the educational materials, ERIC also has a featured publication section. One of the featured publications is the “What Works Clearinghouse (WWC),” which provides the public with scientific evidence about what works in education, including Intervention Reports, WWC Topic Reports, Quick Review Reports and Practice Guides.


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Vietnam vet gives back to department that made him feel at home

Guerine’s gift provides scholarships for art students

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95

Rich Guerine ’72 says “Western was one of the best times of my life.”

Guerine’s diverse career includes military service, professional car racing, law school, the insurance industry, contract work and property management.

Following a previous undergraduate degree from Parsons College, Fairfield (IA), and a tour of Vietnam, Guerine came to Western seeking a degree in secondary education. After taking some general courses and a few of particular interest, including art history and sculpture, he switched directions and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine art.

“I finally was given a chance to use my creative abilities,” said Guerine. “I never knew how much I loved art until I came to Western.”

While studying at Western, Guerine was active in the Veteran’s Club, was president of Kappa Pi for two years, and was involved in the testing of board games with art professor Sam Parker and on outside projects with art professor Don Crouch.

This love, of Western and of art, has been steadfast for more than 35 years. Although Guerine went on to earn a master’s degree and attend law school elsewhere, his positive feelings for Western continued to evolve.

“At Western, I was accepted on an equal basis and treated as an equal,” he said. “The professors all treated me like a person, not just a student, and were genuinely interested in me and in what I thought. You have to remember what was going on in the world then, and the fact that I had served in Vietnam. In many places at the time, Vietnam veterans were not respected or treated well. But I was blown away by how well I was treated by the professors and the townsfolk. Macomb is a friendly community, and I really liked and enjoyed the people.”

(He was, however, called the “redneck of the art department” because of his military haircut.)

Guerine has been generous in his support of the art department at Western over the years, supporting the general needs of the department, the art gallery and the Welsh-American Printmaking Scholarship. In 2010, Guerine committed $200,000 of his estate to provide scholarships for art students.

“I suspect the art department receives few private gifts, and an art degree may not be perceived as a degree with a high earning potential, but perhaps someone like me will be able to earn this degree and love it as I have,” Guerine said. “Perhaps someone who otherwise would not have the chance, will, by my gift, be able to study art.”

“We are grateful to Rich for his exceptional generosity,” said Paul Kreider, College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) dean. “Because of Rich, future students will be able to develop their talents and pursue their passions, free from financial worry. The impact of this gift will be tremendous.”

“My hope for the gift is that someone who couldn’t afford to go to school on their own will be able to, and I hope they enjoy Western as much as I did,” Guerine said. “I can think of no better way to utilize my resources.”

Francis and Peggy Davern International Scholarship

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95

Many international students who attended Western Illinois University between 1970 and 1987 will remember Peggy Davern MS-ED ’72, the face (if not the heart and soul) of International Programs (now known as International Studies) at WIU. Hired in 1970 as the foreign student adviser, Davern was the director of International Student Affairs by the time she retired 16 years later, and the anchor for students who studied here during those years.

“The diversity of the job was very exciting to me,” said Davern, now 85 and living in Tempe (AZ). “I used to say that I learned more from the international students than they did from WIU. Although my husband and I had traveled extensively, many of these students came from diverse countries, so it was an educational situation for me, too. I loved being their adviser.”

Peggy’s duties were as varied as the students’ origins. Immigration visas, orientation to the program, housing, transportation from Chicago and social activities were just some of the areas in which Davern became the local expert. She helped calm their fears and with the overwhelming minutiae of detail involved in international study.

International students during those years were predominately from Nigeria, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Iran, Pakistan, India and Turkey.

Not only did she provide service from her office, but also, she welcomed students into her home, entertained them and socialized with them.

Her husband, Francis, and children Tim and Cathy, participated in all the activities. Davern retired in 1987, one year following Francis, professor of elementary education and reading, and one of WIU’s most popular professors who died in 1999.

The couple spent their first year of shared retirement teaching at Southwest China Teachers’ University in Beibei, Sichuan.

This assignment was at the invitation of Western’s first student from main land China, Wang Changkai MA ’82, then vice president of the institution. Changkai had earned his master’s degree at WIU and worked extensively with Davern.

“That year was one of the best things to ever happen to me,” Davern said.

The Davern’s daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Guy Gronquist, who live in New Mexico, established the Francis and Peggy Davern International Scholarship upon Davern’s retirement. “For my parents, teaching was a total commitment,” said Cathy. “Even when my mother started to work for the International Programs area at WIU as a foreign student adviser, she continued to teach, but this time it was with international students from many, many countries, as they settled in the U.S. Our house was always full of people from all over the world and there was never a dull moment at our Murray Street home. When they both finally retired, it seemed very obvious to my husband and me that an international scholarship was the perfect way to honor careers and lifetimes dedicated to teaching and international friendship.”

“Being a foreign student adviser is the best thing that ever happened to me,” she said. I could hardly wait to get to work each morning, and if we were working on something important, I never hesitated to stay late to finish a project. I was always very proud of ‘my’ students and very fond of them.”

How to donate...

Donations are now being sought to endow the scholarship in perpetuity in honor of Peggy and Francis Davern. Contributions can be sent to: WIU Foundation, 303 Sherman Hall, WIU, Macomb, IL 61455; or visit wiu.edu/giving (which includes a credit card option for domestic and international transactions).
Romig receives residency award

One of 10 composers nationwide selected for retreat in noted composer’s home

James Romig, an associate professor of theory and composition in Western's School of Music, is one of 10 composers nationwide to receive an Aaron Copland Award, which grants him a coveted all-expenses-paid Copland House Residency this summer.

The four-week residency will allow him the opportunity to work on multiple projects, including music for wind ensemble, solo piano and string quartet.

“Residencies like this allow a creative artist time to work, uninterrupted by mundane tasks that take up so much time when one is at home or at school,” Romig said. “Copland House is especially appealing for its quiet seclusion in the woods of upstate New York, and of course for its incredible history.”

Copland (1900-1990), a composer, writer, teacher and conductor, was highly decorated and honored for his achievements, including the Pulitzer Prize in composition for “Appalachian Spring” (1944) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1964). The National Historic Landmark house is situated in New York’s lower Hudson Valley, one hour north of midtown Manhattan.

Each resident lives and works, one at a time, for stays ranging from three to eight weeks at Copland’s rustic, hilltop home, where they are able to focus uninterruptedly on their creative work.

Judging this year’s applicants were eminent composersaron Hagen (b. 1961), about whom the Chicago Tribune wrote, “a composer born to write operas”; Louis Karchin (b. 1951), composer, conductor, New Music performer and professor of music at New York University; and Zhou Long (b. 1953), recognized internationally for creating music that unites ancient Chinese heritages with contemporary Western music forms.

“It is gratifying to be recognized by one’s peers, and that one has received this award,” said Romig (b. 1971), whose solo, chamber and large-ensemble works have been performed throughout America, Europe and Asia.

Romig studied composition with internationally known composers Charles Wuorinen and Milton Babbitt, and he draws further inspiration for his work from the worlds of visual art, literature and architecture. Also crucial to his art is interaction with nature through hiking and photography.

Romig began composing for percussion, his principal instrument, during his undergraduate education (1989-1993).

“Because most of the repertoire for percussion is relatively modern, I naturally thought about composing some of my own. After giving it a try and experiencing the thrill of creating something new, I was hooked and never looked back,” Romig said.

“I have written for soloists, small chamber ensembles and larger groups such as orchestras. I enjoy it all, as each new instrument or ensemble presents tantalizing challenges; but a list of favorites to compose for would certainly include piano, flute, percussion and strings,” he added.

Two of Romig’s new works were performed during WIU’s 24th Annual New Music Festival in March.

Romig has served as a guest composer, as well as a lecturer and masterclass presenter at numerous sites, including Northwestern University, Columbia University, the Cincinnati Conservatory, Juilliard, the American Academy in Rome and Petrified Forest National Park (AZ). His works are available from Parallax Music Press, Curving Walkway Publications and his website, jamesromig.com.

He taught at the University of Iowa, Rutgers University and Bucknell University before joining the WIU music faculty.

Romig earned his Ph.D. in music theory and composition (2000) from Rutgers University, his Master of Music degree in percussion performance (1996) and a Bachelor of Music degree in music (1993) from the University of Iowa.

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D. C. Wright

Dueling Arts International (DAI) awarded D.C. Wright, associate professor of theatre and head of movement and stage combat in Western Illinois’ Department of Theatre and Dance, the highest rank of Master Teacher at the DAI Stage Combat Winter Workshop in Los Angeles over the 2011 New Year. The honor further distinguishes him as only one of four DAI Master Teachers in the country.

He became a Certified Teacher of Stage Combat with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) in 1998. He currently serves on the SAFD governing body as the Certified Teacher Representative.

Wright is co-ordinator of the Central Illinois State Combat Workshop and the coordinator in charge of the teaching assistants for the Winter Wonderland Workshop in Chicago. He is an active teacher at national, regional, state and local stage combat workshops.

He wrote, directed and/or performed in three Wild West stunt shows for Leo F. amusement park in Taiwan, and has acted in and/or been the stunt coordinator/fight director of several commercials and industrial films.

Wright came to WIU in 2002, after he earned his MFA at Boston University. His B.A. is from Brigham Young University (1995).

WIU actors/faculty shine at American College Theatre Festival

Western Illinois University theatre students and faculty were among the most visible and highly honored at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) held at Michigan State University in January.

Chad Tallon (Essex, IL), who is in his third and final year of his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) acting degree program, received the Classical Acting Award from the National Partners of American Theatre. He was nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship auditions for his work in “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

The KCACTF is a national theatre program for colleges and universities, which serves as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States, according to the regional website, www.kcactf3.org/about.htm. Region III brought together more than 1,400 collegiate actors, designers, technicians, playwrights, professionals, faculty and other skilled theatre personnel from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin to participate in the intensive four-day event.

Western Illinois students attended workshops offered by faculty and professionals, exhibited design work, acted in and directed staged readings, saw productions brought to the festival from across the region and participated in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions.

Junior Blake Davy (Morris, IL), a musical theatre major, was the make-up designer on the winning seven-member Design Storm! Team, which was comprised of students from different colleges. The members knew their roles and had read the script in advance, but they met for the first time at the festival. The teams were charged to create a 4’ x 8’ panel that communicated the concept of their play with their conceptual write-ups, drawings, swatches and images. They were allowed team conversation and collaboration with two or more people for a maximum of six hours over two days before their final presentations.

Junior Anna Cline (Grafton, WI) and her scene partner, sophomore Lorenzo Rush (Cicero, IL), both musical theatre majors, received the Outstanding Ensemble Acting award. Cline was nominated twice: for her roles in “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” and “Trojan Women.” There were more than 300 acting couples in the competition.

Tallon said he wanted to find material for the KCACTF competition “that was completely different from the character I played in the (Spelling Bee)” show. The sad truth is, many people don’t really know how to act Shakespeare that well, and that is something that WIU prides itself on.

“I knew if I had a chance to do Shakespeare, I would have a leg up on the competition because of the training I have gotten here,” he added.

Continued on p. 16
The 2010 season will go down as one of the most special years in Western Illinois Football history.

- Tim Van Alstine

The 2010 Western Illinois Football program made history at The Sports Network/Fathead.com awards ceremony in January. Western became the first Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) program to have a ‘Top 2’ finish in each of the three major national awards: the Walter Payton (Player of the Year), Buck Buchanan (Defensive Player of the Year) and Eddie Robinson (Coach of the Year).

The awards ceremony was held at the Embassy Suites in Frisco (TX), on the eve of the FCS National Championship game.

Senior quarterback Matt Barr ’10, (Belvidere, IL), finished second in the Walter Payton Award voting. Senior linebacker Kyle Glazier, (Geneseo, IL), finished in a tie for runner-up in the final voting for the 2010 Buck Buchanan Award, and first-year head coach Mark Hendrickson finished second in the final voting for the 2010 Eddie Robinson Award.

Western Illinois was one of five FCS programs to have a finalist for the three national awards. Western recorded the best wins turnaround from one year to the next, going from 1-10 in 2009 to 8-5 this year and advancing to the Second Round of the NCAA FCS Playoffs, losing to top-seed Appalachian State. In fact, the plus-7 win improvement is also the best turnaround in Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC) history.

Barr is the only Western quarterback to finish among the ‘Top 3’ in the voting, and matches Aaron Stecker’s runner-up finish in 1997. Senior quarterback Jeremy Moses picked up 37 of the 130 first-place votes totaling 372 points. Barr received 17 first-place votes, finishing with 262 points.

Junior quarterback DeAndre Presley of Appalachian State was third with 182 points.

Barr completed 229-of-393 passes for 3,410 yards and 27 touchdowns to 10 interceptions with a 148.74 passing efficiency. He also rushed for 449 yards and seven touchdowns, averaging 4.3 yards per carry. The four-year starter ranked eighth nationally in passing efficiency, sixth in total offense, 12th in passing yards and ninth in points accounted for.

He broke 17 Western Illinois game, season and career records during his four-year career—shattering the season yards, season touchdowns and season total offense (3,859) marks. Barr became the only Leatherneck quarterback to throw for 400 yards in a game twice in a career, doing so in consecutive weeks.

This year Barr also accomplished the rare feat of throwing for 200 yards (221) and rushing for 100 yards (125) in the same game (vs. Sam Houston State). The senior also surpassed 1,000 career rushing yards, doing so in his final game.

Glazier, the All-American linebacker, becomes the sixth Leatherneck in program history to finish among the Buchanan Award final voting, and it’s the highest finish by a Western student-athlete since Edgerton Hartwell and James Milton won the award in 2000 and 1998, respectively.

Eastern Washington linebacker J.C. Sherritt (last year’s runner-up) won the award. Glazier received 16 first-place votes, totaling 234 points. The senior linebacker was selected on 75 ballots. He tied with Wofford’s Ameet Pall (17 first-place votes) for the runner-up spot. Sherritt finished with 24 first-place votes and 253 points.

Glazier finished second nationally in tackles per game, averaging 12.85 (167 overall). He posted the most tackles in a FCS game, 25 at Missouri State (third-most in a Western Illinois game). Two weeks earlier he recorded 21 stops at South Dakota State, becoming the only Leatherneck to record two 21-plus tackle games in their career, let alone in the same month.

Glazier registered 10 or more tackles in 10 of the 13 games played. He also led the team with 13 tackles for a loss and made four sacks on the year. In addition, Glazier recorded two interceptions, forced two fumbles and broke up two passes.

The 167 total tackles are sixth-most in a WIU season (11th in the MVFC). A three-year starter, his 392 career tackles (378 over the past three seasons) rank him fourth among the Western all-time leaders.

Hendrickson’s honor marks the highest finish in the Robinson voting for a Western head coach. Hendrickson also became the only Leatherneck head coach to finish among the nation’s top vote-getters in his first year in charge.

He received 15 of the 130 first-place votes and totaled 218 total points, finishing behind Tony Samuel from Southeast Missouri State (31 first-place votes, 269 points). Hendrickson was listed on 67 ballots. Eastern Washington’s Beau Baldwin (180), Wofford’s Mike Ayers (160) and Indiana State’s Trent Miles (151) rounded out the top five voting.

The Leathernecks ended a 10-game losing streak in the season-opener against Valparaiso, and also stopped a six-game losing streak to conference foe Youngstown State in October. Western turned in the first undefeated season at Hanson Field (6-0) since 1998.

Hendrickson coached three All-Americans this season: Barr, Glazier and wide receiver Lito Senatus (Miami, FL). They were also three of the eight Leathernecks to earn All-MVFC accolades.

“I want to congratulate not only Matt, but also coach

Hendrickson and Kyle for finishing second in their respective voting,” said Director of Athletics Tim Van Alstine, who was in attendance at the awards ceremony along with Hendrickson, and Barr’s family and friends. “The 2010 season will go down as one of the most special years in Western Illinois Football history. Under Coach Hendrickson’s guidance, our student-athletes and coaches showed a great deal of determination and heart to have the best turnaround in program history, qualify for the NCAA playoffs and win our opening round playoff game. Our showing Jan. 6, getting three runner-up finishes, caps off a great season not only for the Leatherneck Football program, but for the entire Western Illinois University community.”

See related story on p. 11
Leathernecks finish 17th in final Sports Network/Fathead.com poll

Western Illinois capped off the 2010 Football season finishing 17th in the final Sports Network/Fathead.com ‘Top 25’ poll.

The Leathernecks ended the season 8-5 overall, advancing to the NCAA FCS Playoffs and winning a postseason game for the first time in seven years. Western finished 5-3 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC), good for second place and finishing ahead of regular season champion Northern Iowa (19th) in the final poll. North Dakota State, the third MVFC member ranked in the final poll, advanced to the Quarterfinals and finished ninth.

Western’s No. 17 ranking also marks a season-high Sports Network showing, surpassing the previous best of 20th on Oct. 4. The Leathernecks were ranked 18th on Oct. 18 by the FCS Coaches. Not only was the plus-7 win turnaround best in Western history, it also set a new standard for the MVFC (1-10 in 2009/8-5 in 2010).

Spring practice for the 2011 season begins in March, and the Leathernecks return 11 starters on offense and defense.

Leatherneck student-athletes turn in another 3.0 semester

For the fourth consecutive semester, Western Illinois student-athletes turned in a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, extending the streak following the finalization of Fall 2010 semester grades. The Athletics Department’s 3.00 GPA among all 395 student-athletes extended the streak. The Fall 2010 semester marked the implementation of a plus/minus grading system at Western Illinois University.

Twenty-five student-athletes earned a 4.0 GPA; 97 earned University Honors, (posting a 3.6 GPA); and 212 (53.7 percent) earned a 3.0 or above. Leatherneck student-athletes again surpassed the University’s cumulative GPA 2.93 for the Fall semester.

The volleyball program earned the top team average, recording a 3.65 GPA. Women’s cross country (3.57), softball (3.39), women’s soccer (3.38) and women’s golf (3.36) rounded out the top five GPA teams. Men’s cross country earned the top men’s honor at 3.27, followed by baseball (2.96), men’s track (2.91), men’s golf (2.89) and men’s tennis (2.87) to comprise the men’s top five.

Western had three student-athletes named to the CoSIDA/ESPN Academic All-District last fall: football’s Kyle Glazier (Geneseo, IL) (First Team Academic All-America), and Jenny Green (Palatine, IL) and Caitlin Barrett (Springfield, IL) from women’s soccer.

“Our coaches and staff continue to recruit student-athletes who are prepared to successfully meet the academic rigors they will encounter here at Western. At the same time, we expect our student-athletes to positively represent the University community academically and athletically,” said Director of Athletics Tim Van Alstine.

Western Illinois 2010 Fall Semester 4.0 GPA

Alexa Arent, Women’s Golf (Appleton, WI)
Matt Barr, Football (Belvidere, IL)
Caitlin Barrett, Women’s Soccer (Springfield, IL)
Colleen Biebel, Softball (Alsip, IL)
Sarah Blase, Women’s Soccer (Granger, IN)
Marcela Brando, Women’s Tennis (Macomb, IL)
Alejandro Buceta, Men’s Tennis (Spain, FN)
Amy Byers, Women’s Track and Field (Ferris, IL)
Carianna Cottone, Women’s Track and Field (Bloomington, IL)
Zach Glasebrook, Men’s Track and Field (Park Ridge, IL)
Miranda Graham, Women’s Soccer (Schoolcraft, MI)
Mackenzie Gray, Women’s Track and Field (Blue Grass, IA)
Myers Hendrickson, Football (Macomb, IL)
Taylor Henning, Women’s Soccer (Huntley, IL)
Jimmy Holtschlag, Football (Quincy, IL)
Julia Katsaros, Softball (Willowbrook, IL)
Nikki Klier, Women’s Track and Field (Algonquin, IL)
Jeff Liles, Men’s Track and Field (Hattiesburg, MS)
Will Lunt, Football (Rochester, IL)
Chelsea Lynes, Women’s Track and Field (Canada, FN)
Billy Molinari, Men’s Basketball (Peoria, IL)
Sergio Rodriguez, Men’s Soccer (Elgin, IL)
Aaron Russo, Men’s Track and Field (Algonquin, IL)
Jenna Verity, Women’s Track and Field (Schaumburg, IL)
Kelsea Visalli, Women’s Golf (Columbia City, IN)

Athletics department continues ‘Rocky’s Reach’ program

Western Illinois University student-athletes are once again volunteering time in the Macomb and area communities. Western Illinois is continuing the program called ‘Rocky’s Reach,’ in which Leatherneck student-athletes have logged nearly 3,000 hours of community service annually, and dating back to 2003-2004, student-athletes have raised at least $12,000 every year for charity.

Leathernecks land 50 on Academic All-League Team

Western Illinois landed 50 student-athletes on the Summit League’s Fall Academic All-League team. The Fall Academic All-League team recognized student-athletes in men’s and women’s cross country, men’s and women’s soccer and volleyball. A total of 481 Summit League athletes were named to the list, including 255 who earned “Distinguished Scholar” honors.

In order to earn a spot on the Academic All-League team, a student athlete must earn a 3.0 grade-point average during their semester of competition. Distinguished Scholars are those who have earned a 3.60 or better in the classroom.

The Fighting Leathernecks finished in a tie with IPFW for the fourth-most selections among the 10 Summit League member institutions, and had a total of 30 student-athletes earn the title of Distinguished Scholar.

The Leatherneck women’s soccer team led the way with 18 selections, while volleyball had all 12 squad members on the list. Men’s soccer had 10 of its members named to the list, while men’s and women’s cross country had five each.
Moreno now an expert on ‘Illinois Curiosities’

Rich Moreno, director of student publications at Western Illinois University, has authored a new book that examines the Land of Lincoln’s most unusual and offbeat places and things.

Published by Globe Pequot Press, “Illinois Curiosities” highlights more than 175 of the state’s most unusual or bizarre places, ranging from the world’s largest laundromat, in Berwyn, to a tree that some believe resembles Jesus holding a lamb, the so-called “Jesus Tree” in Quincy. The 304-page paperback is available now in bookstores. Moreno signed copies of the book in February at New Copperfield’s Book Service in Macomb.

Starting with a list of “anything that sounded remotely interesting,” Moreno began his research in 2009, taking several road trips across the state, including one weeklong journey through central and northern Illinois with his daughter during a break from school. Logging more than 1,500 miles over the course of his research, Moreno studied oddities and interesting sites ranging from Superman’s “hometown” of Metropolis in southern Illinois to the private collection housing the Batmobile (from “Batman Returns”) in the northern Illinois town of Roscoe.

It was a challenge to cover the wealth of material, Moreno noted, considering the size of the Chicago area alone, and Moreno’s full-time commitment of advising production of the Western Courier, Western Illinois Magazine and teaching journalism.

Moreno came to WIU in 2006 from Nevada, where he had an established career in journalism and in writing about Nevada history, including “Nevada Curiosities” and “The Roadside History of Nevada.”

“Illinois was a whole different place to explore, and it was fun to write coming at this from really knowing very little,” he said. “I learned a lot about the state. And that has given me a lot of ideas for being adviser for the student magazine; when students are looking for interesting stories to cover, I can kind of point them in the right direction.”

Moreno took all of the photos for the book. One of the challenges in putting the book together was waiting to capture a photo of the legendary white squirrel in Olney.

“I had to wait under a tree for about two hours, not moving, so I just sat and read,” he said. “Finally he came down. Their population is declining, so I was fortunate to see one.”

Moreno, who was honored in 2007 with the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Silver Pen Award, will continue with his new subject and home base while at work on the upcoming “It Happened in Illinois,” to be published in August.

Patrons create minority scholarship in humanities and social sciences

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95

“We hope that this modest gift will encourage others to give, to enable WIU to continue to build a strong legacy of providing lasting learning experiences to students in a supportive environment,” said 1973 graduates Linda and Gerald Patton.

The Pattons have recently committed $25,000 to establish the Patton Minority Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Gerald and Linda have each served in various capacities in higher education over the past 30 years, including roles as faculty members and administrators. They embrace education as a core value and believe that education is a key to success in life. The couple has established the scholarship to provide encouragement and support others to achieve their higher education goals.

The Pattons were already married with their baccalaureate degrees behind them when they came to Western to attend graduate school. While Linda completed a Master of Science in counseling and college student personnel, Gerald continued his study of history, earning a Master of Arts. Both of the Pattons highly value their educational experiences at Western. For Gerald, Western was where he solidified his confidence and motivation to pursue graduate study.

“It was at Western that I really came to understand history as an academic discipline,” said Gerald. “My interest evolved into a passion. I was fortunate to encounter several professors from whom I received intellectual challenge and encouragement. Professors Victor Hicken, my thesis adviser, and Robert Elkin, who taught historiography, were two of them. I attribute my experience at Western with providing me with the necessary skills, intellectual and interpersonal, to achieve the next big challenge, the Ph.D.,” Gerald continued.

Linda, under the tutelage of Kenneth Sproull, her mentor, remains passionate about the importance of providing exceptional service in her chosen role in higher education.

“This scholarship is my small way of honoring Dr. Sproull (founder of the counselor education and college student personnel programs) and his memory for the impact he had on my early professional development,” Linda explained. “I hope that it will assist students as emerging professionals to benefit from similar experiences and opportunities that were afforded me while at WIU, such as high quality education, psychological support, confidence building and an opportunity for my first job working in the WIU Counseling Center.”

From WIU, the couple moved to the University of Iowa, where Gerald earned his Ph.D. and Linda worked in the university’s counseling center. Their careers have taken them from coast to coast, New York to California. The Pattons now live in San Diego; both work at California State University-Fullerton, Gerald as the director of assessment and educational effectiveness, Linda as director of the office of grants and contracts.

The Patton Scholarship will benefit undergraduates in good academic standing with an interest in a career associated with the humanities and/or social sciences. Preference will be given to students from underrepresented groups.

“The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is truly indebted to the generosity of Gerald and Linda,” said CAS Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez. “They are an inspiration to, and mentors for, our students, helping to make their dreams for success a reality.”

Alumni on campus for ‘CSI-WIU’

Kerry Nielsen ’76 MS ’97, forensic scientist for the Illinois State Police drug chemistry unit in Morton (IL), was one of several WIU alumni who helped give students an inside look at the real world of crime scene investigation last fall as part of the Fourth Annual Forensic Exhibit and Speaker Series.

Hosted by University Libraries’ Physical Science Library (PSL), the series—which included a mock crime scene and a CSI contest—has become one of the largest multi-disciplinary events on campus, involving faculty, students, and staff, as well as community professionals and alumni from across Illinois.

Organized by Kathleen Clauson ’82 MA ’86, unit coordinator for the PSL, to promote the PSL as well as Western’s forensic chemistry program, presenters and participants have included Patricia Anderson ’78 MA ’83, associate professor of sociology and anthropology; Larry Jameson ’71, former McDonough County Coroner; John Carson ’80, Macomb Police Department sargeant and Macomb Police Detective William Gass ’02.

Kerry Nielsen ’76 MS ’97
Kurt Jefferson ‘88, an expert on European politics and frequent media commentator on U.S.-Russian relations, will return to his “home” by serving as the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) “Professor for the Day” in March. He will speak with several classes at WIU to share his experiences from visits to the Middle East and China.

Jefferson has a lifelong connection to WIU, having attended the Laboratory School in grade school and later earning his bachelor’s degree in political science from WIU. His parents, Robert and Sally Jefferson, were both WIU faculty members from 1965-1989. Robert as chair of the marketing/finance department and business dean from 1984-1989, Sally as an instructor of business communication.

Jefferson received an MA (1989) and Ph.D. in political science (1993) from the University of Missouri (MU). He taught at MU from 1988-1993 and Stephens College in Columbia from 1992-1993, and is now professor and chair of the political science department at Westminster College, a small liberal arts college of 1,050 students in Fulton (MO). He was also named director for the Center for Engaging the World in the Churchill Institute in Fulton (MO). He was also named director for the Center for Engaging the World in the Churchill Institute in Fulton (MO).

A recent trip to China with another colleague from Westminster College, they took their message about the value of the liberal arts to the largest country in the world. As they made their way around the country visiting various high schools and counselors, they realized that it was fairly rare for representatives small liberal arts colleges to visit China.

Jefferson has written numerous scholarly articles (mainly on European politics), two books and has done several media commentaries on a wide range of topics from American to British politics to U.S.-Russian relations. More recently, he has written articles on communist warlords in battle (Josip Broz Tito and Leon Trotsky) in the popular military magazine, Armchair General.

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“This program fulfills one of our University’s goals to positively impact our region by meeting the educational needs of our communities, as well as helping fill a nationwide demand for nursing professionals.”

WIU’s School of Nursing currently has 16 RN-BSN completion students at the WIU-Macomb and WIU-Quad Cities campuses, 38 pre-licensure (basic BSN) students and 180 freshman and sophomores in pre-nursing. Students use simulators that represent a variety of age groups to learn complex nursing care and work through situations that may not be safe for students in a real practice setting, Monahan added.

“Our students become proficient with all skills a baccalaureate-prepared registered nurse must have before they go into the workplace. In addition, the students are taught research and how to engage evidences-based practice; legal-ethical issues related to nursing; nursing care of populations; and the management of nursing units, including finance and personnel management,” Monahan said.

In addition to practicing with simulators, junior-level pre-licensure students have clinical practice at Macomb public and private schools as well as two senior residencies, operating room and recovery-supervised clinical practice, and various clinics in the community and on campus. Junior- and senior-level pre-licensure students also have clinical practice at McDonough District

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This is a great way to get your foot in the door to show your abilities.

Also, I cannot stress the importance enough to be cognizant of what you put on social media. Many students make the mistake of posting inappropriate language, photos and so forth that can prevent employment opportunities. As Dr. Johnson tells our new students at orientation programs, “If you don’t want Mom or Grandma to see it, don’t post it. It’s out there and you can’t take it back.” The ability to access and view profiles on social networks is readily available these days. If you want to be taken seriously as a young professional, go above and beyond to maintain a clean online image. Take down the questionable photos and ask your friends to be mindful of the language they use when posting public messages.

Find balance with academics, involvement and personal time. Although you go to college for an education, it is extremely important to manage your time to include “me time,” whether it’s reading a book, exercising, watching a movie, listening to music, etc.

Finally, I would be remiss to omit some very simple, but powerful lessons I learned from Cari Sheets, which included, “Life IS an attitude;” “Don’t sweat the small stuff;” and “Work hard, play hard!” Through the years, I’ve come to appreciate Western and all it has to offer. For all these reasons, I will always bleed purple and gold! We are Leathernecks!

Longtime director of Career Services retires

During his nearly 21-year career at WIU, Al Waters, director of Career Services, initiated numerous career-related innovations that made Western a state, Midwest or national leader. A retirement reception for Waters was held on campus March 4.

Waters came to Western Illinois University in 1990 as director of the former Occupational Information and Placement Office. When he took over, there were 60 file cabinets filled with paper credentials. He installed a system to scan all the files. By 1992, Western’s placement office was the first in the nation to have a paperless office environment, he said.

Another innovation that was quickly activated and made Western a national leader was the Telephone Scheduling System (TSS), a computerized database that allowed users to schedule appointments, get placement news, leave messages, access a job hotline and confirm required and you can practice anywhere with very little space. There are no tests and no competition. There is no prerequisite physical form or level of ability; beyond the ability to breathe. Yoga is for every body.”

Hyde, originally from the Pittsburgh area, came to Western in 2008 from San Diego (CA), after earning graduate degrees in social science (California University of PA) and social studies education (Duquesne University). In addition to teaching the Tools for Teachers workshops, Hyde maintains a full 60-minute practice three times a week.

“I also do 10-15 minutes every day whenever I feel like I need it,” she said. “Yoga practice has changed my outlook on life. It has made me more patient (flexible), resilient (strong) and steady in the face of challenges (balanced). Now, I take these tools ‘off the mat’ and into my classroom. As a teacher, yoga provides a means of reflection and introspection, from which I can adjust my instructional approaches. Yoga opens my heart to my students and makes me more compassionate. I’m a more attentive and responsive teacher because of yoga.”

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Now, as a member of the International Association for School Yoga and Mindfulness, Hyde is working to develop national standards for yoga in school programs that will align with state health, physical education and social/emotional learning standards.

“Yoga education is compatible with the current national policy focus on children’s health; the long-standing call to educate ‘the whole child,’ especially as an antidote to the heavy prescription of high-stakes testing and accountability,” she said. “It’s also aligned with the Illinois social/emotional learning standards (SEL), which have been proposed as a national model.”

Hyde points out that the simplicity of yoga makes it ideal for educational environments, many of which are under budget constraints.

“It’s free to practice and even learn,” she said. “You can do it alone or with others; there is no specific equipment required and you can practice anywhere with very little space. There are no tests and no competition. There is no prerequisite physical form or level of ability; beyond the ability to breathe. Yoga is for every body.”

In mid-December 2010, Career Services was relocated to the newly remodeled Memorial Hall, room 125. Alumni seeking career placement assistance or any other service are encouraged to visit the Career Services web site at wiu.edu/student_services/careers, or contact the office at (309) 298-1838 or careers@wiu.edu.
WIU becomes charter member of Veterans Honor Society

Because of its commitment to veterans and active duty service personnel, Western Illinois University has been accepted as a charter member of SALUTE (Service – Academics – Leadership – Unity – Tribute – Excellence) Veterans National Honor Society.

According to Kathy Meyers, assistant director of the WIU Veterans Resource Center (VRC), as a charter member, Western is considered one of the pioneers of the national honor society team. SALUTE recognizes veterans, active duty service members, National Guard members and reservists who have been honorably discharged, or who are currently serving. One of the primary goals of SALUTE is to recognize members who have shown courage, strength, leadership, excellence and perseverance in their military endeavors and who are now showing that same commitment to their academic careers.

The national honor society provides a four-tier system designed to encourage student veterans to strive to improve academic performance so they may advance to higher tier levels in the honor society. For undergraduate WIU students, the cumulative grade point average must fall within these guidelines: Delta tier 3.00-3.24; Charlie tier 3.25-3.49; Bravo tier 3.50-3.74; and Alpha tier 3.75-4.0. A graduate student with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 may be eligible as a SALUTE GOLD member.

To apply to the Western Illinois University Chapter of SALUTE for the 2010-11 year, a student must be currently enrolled during the Spring 2011 semester, have completed both basic and advanced individual training components and received an honorable discharge from the armed forces or provide proof of current duty station. Undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours at Western prior to Jan. 18, 2011, and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Graduate students must have completed a minimum of nine semester hours or the equivalent of one semester at Western prior to Jan. 18, 2011, and have a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

“We are pleased to be accepted as a charter member of this unique, worthwhile honor society,” Meyers added. “It is a testament to our University’s commitment to, as well as the services and resources we provide to, veterans and current active duty members to be successful students.”

According to SALUTE, students who are inducted into membership represent “every slice of American military and veterans in higher education,” at two- and four-year institutions.

For more information, visit the SALUTE headquarters site at salute.colostate.edu.

Alumni in legal careers return to campus for Pre-Law Symposium

The Western Illinois University Centennial Honors College hosted its 11th annual Pre-Law Symposium in February in the University Union Lamoine Room.

The Feb. 21 symposium began with a reception honoring this year’s keynote speaker Marty Green ‘87, vice president of government relations for the Illinois CPA Society; and panelists Akami Marik MS ’05, director for admissions and financial aid at Southern Illinois University Law School, Kateah McMasters ’08, Bradley Rigdon ’09, and James Ruppert ’10, all law students at Southern Illinois University Law School, Carbondale. A panel discussion, “Preparing for Law School,” featured Marik, McMasters, Rigdon and Ruppert.

Marik earned a bachelor’s degree in speech communication at Missouri Western State University and her master’s degree in college student personnel at Western Illinois. Following graduation, she began working at the Southern Illinois University School of Law as an admissions coordinator. In Spring 2009, Marik was promoted to Director of Admissions, where she oversees all admissions, recruitment and outreach programs for the School of Law.

McMasters graduated from WIU in 2008 with her bachelor’s degree in political science and minors in pre-law and Spanish. She started law school at Southern Illinois University in 2009 and has earned Dean’s List honors in all three semesters. This past summer she externed for Illinois Fifth District Appellate Judge Bruce Stewart, where she assisted in writing one appellate opinion which was published by the Judge for a case (People v. Foltz). She is a law clerk at the law firm Barnett, Twomey, Broom, Hughes & Hoke in Carbondale during the academic year. McMasters recently learned that she has been accepted into the Army JAG this summer for an internship.

Rigdon graduated from WIU in 2009 with a law enforcement and justice administration (LEJA) degree and minors in Spanish and computer science. While at Western, he worked as the vice president of administration for Concert Safety Corps, as the supervisor for Go West Security and as a student leader at the University Golf Course. He was a member of the Centennial Honors College, the University Judicial Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Phi Sigma and Lambda Alpha Epsilon and acted as a peer mentor in LEJA 101 for the First Year Experience program. Rigdon is currently a second-year law student at Southern Illinois University and plans to pursue a career in federal law enforcement after completing law school.

Ruppert is in his first year at Southern Illinois University law school after graduating from WIU in 2010 with a degree in political science and a minor in pre-law. While at Western, Ruppert was a member of Blue Key, Mortar Board and Phi Eta Sigma; was the vice president, secretary and co-founder of Phi Alpha Delta and the president and treasurer for the Student Honors Association. He attended the 2009 Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law National Conference and ran for student trustee for WIU’s Board of Trustees. He also was a resident assistant in Higgins Hall and was awarded a Resident Assistant Scholarship. He received the Charles A. Leonard Memorial Scholarship, Outstanding New Freshman Scholarship, Legacy Scholarship and Sophomore, Junior and Senior Honors Scholarships. At Southern Illinois, he received the SIU Law LSAT Scholarship and is a member of Sports Law Society and Phi Alpha Delta. Ruppert would like to work in the private sector or seek employment with the federal government upon completion of his law degree.

Green, who presented the keynote speech, “Shakespeare, the Presidents and the Greater Good,” graduated from WIU with a bachelor’s degree in political science and received his Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University. He is an attorney licensed to practice before the Illinois Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. He has served as assistant to the Governor of Illinois and as executive assistant attorney general, where he was the senior staff officer and legal advisor for Homeland Security issues. Since 2007, he has been vice president for government relations for the Illinois CPA Society, overseeing and implementing legislative and regulatory activities in the interest of its more than 24,000 CPA and finance members.

As a representative on the National Association of Attorneys,’ General Campus Security Task Force and the State of Illinois Campus Security Task Force, he worked in formulating response materials for public and private colleges and universities. He is assigned as headquarters staff judge advocate, where he coordinates legal activities within the Illinois Air National Guard. He has served as a judge advocate during Hurricane Katrina and he was responsible for advising National Guard commanders on civilian and military legal issues associated with the rescue and recovery efforts. He has been published in State Government News, the State Journal Register, the Illinois Bar Association and the Illinois Municipal Review.

Green is a member of the Illinois Bar Association, ISBA Section Council(s)-Labor and Employment Law and Criminal Justice and the Lincoln Douglas Inn of Court. At Western, he is past president of the Alumni Council (2005-2007) and a 2009 Alumni Achievement Award Recipient. Green is also an adjunct instructor with the Department of Health Services.

Sponsors for the Pre-Law Symposium included the WIU Foundation; the College of Arts and Sciences; the departments of English and journalism, history, philosophy and religious studies and political science; as well as the McDonough County Bar Association.
Anne (MD), and director of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Scholars Program. Thomas also served as interim president at Maryland Eastern Shore, as well as executive vice president, associate vice president for academic/student affairs, executive assistant to the president, chair of the department of English and modern languages, associate professor of English and coordinator of freshman English and assistant professor of English. Thomas also was the assistant track coach at Maryland Eastern Shore for eight years. He taught English and coached at South Carolina State University and at Johnson C. Smith University.

He earned his doctorate in English literature and criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; his master’s degree in English education from Virginia State University; and his bachelor’s degree in English from Alabama A&M University. Thomas is also a 2005 graduate of the Harvard Institute for Management and Leadership Education program. He and his wife, Linda, have two sons: Patrick, a sophomore at Western Illinois University, and Darius, a sophomore at Macomb Senior High School.

He has written for, been quoted in, or been interviewed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Christian Science Monitor, BBC World Service (Arabic Service), Voice of America, International Herald Tribune (Paris), La Vanguardia (Barcelona), Jamaican Public Radio (Kingston) and The Chronicle of Higher Education. He also participates in local radio and television broadcasts on election nights and on programs related to global affairs.

“As a leader at a small liberal arts college, I have always been impressed with WIU’s goal of being a high quality, public, undergraduate institution in Illinois,” he said. “I look forward to sharing with students how valuable WIU, its faculty, education and student activities were in laying the foundation for my success.”

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Tallon and his scene partner Jonathan “J.J.” Gatesman (Las Vegas, NV), a second-year MFA acting student, advanced through the first round with a three-minute scene. With 36 actors left in the semifinals, the second round included a two-minute scene that contrasted the first scene. When Tallon made the final 16, he presented a one-minute monologue.

“When they announced me as a winner of the classical award, it was totally surreal. … It was such a thrill,” Tallon said. “I remember seeing (WIU Theatre Professor) Bill (Kincaid) shoot out of his chair and start clapping for me, and that in itself was an awesome feeling.

“I wouldn’t be here at the University without Bill, and I wouldn’t be close to where I am right now without Bill … and a handful of other WIU faculty members, past and present, who have shaped me into becoming the actor I am today and who are responsible for mentoring me and helping me win this award.”

Adam Lewis ’98, an MFA alumnus, was one of five recipients of the faculty service award. He taught in WIU’s theatre and dance department last year when Kincaid was on sabbatical leave.

Kincaid was recognized by the National Partners of American Theatre as the Classical Acting Award Mentor because of his mentoring of Tallon.

“To me, mentoring is a long-term and ongoing project no matter what material you are working on,” Kincaid said. “With classical work, the time commitment is even longer. Chad (Tallon) felt completely disconnected from classical work a couple of years ago, so this is of particular note.”

Kincaid said there are two areas with Shakespeare in which Tallon excels over many others: “his complete investment in the language, and his ability to approach Shakespeare from a playful prospective.”

“Chad has many excellent qualities as an actor, and as soon as a company looking for someone with his skill set encounters him, I’m sure they will be glad they found him,” Kincaid added.

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Her decision will depend on the outcome of this trip. But, she did note that, so far, she feels that her work is indeed having a profound impact.

“So far, everything I have recommended, they are doing. It makes me very proud, and frankly, it is a bit awe-inspiring. They are moving forward with my recommendations and a long-range plan,” she said.

For Meloy, her FSP work is a rewarding way to finish out her 30-year career in special education; she plans to retire from WIU in 2012.

“You know, when I was a non-traditional student, back in the early 1970s and trekking back and forth to WIU in Macomb from Beards town, where I lived with my husband and child, I never thought I would ‘grow up’ to be Fulbright Scholar,” she said. “I think it is one of the best ways I can wind up my long, rewarding experience in my field and at Western, which is where it all began.”

Read about Meloy’s trip via her blog at meloyinnigeria.blogspot.com.

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“After reaching the 10-year anniversary, we realized it was time to do a new one, especially because we always like to do what our alumni wish. It is such a great way for our alumni to keep in touch with each other. We hope you will call (877) 303-6993 to update your information soon!”

She added that the alumni website does have the general “Update Us” form, but this project will get a bit more information from alumni and give everyone a chance to update things about their lives they may want to share with WIU and other alumni. To find more information about the project and some frequently asked questions, visit wiu.edu/alumni.

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The foundation’s website noted that 305 institutions registered to receive the 2010 community engagement application, up from 217 in 2008, and of the total applications received, 115 were successfully classified as community engagement institutions. According to The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Western’s application documented “excellent alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.”

Western’s application to the foundation included examples such as Tri States Public Radio; WIU’s Go West transit system, which provides transportation services for University students and Macomb residents; and the WIU GIS Center, which works in tandem with McDonough County and city officials. In addition, the College of Fine Arts and Communication offers concerts and performances, which are open to the public, while the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western provides economic and community development services to businesses and communities throughout Illinois. Other examples included the Office of Student Activities linking students with volunteer opportunities within area communities, and WIU faculty members who offer service learning components as part of the coursework.

“The selection from The Carnegie Foundation exemplifies our commitment to our core values. I would like to thank Chris Merrett of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs for his work in completing the application process for this designation,” said WIU President Al Goldfarb. “Western is dedicated to providing engaging academic and extracurricular experiences for our students within the University community, as well as serving as a cultural, educational and service resource to the Macomb and surrounding communities.”

In addition to the Carnegie classification, earlier last year, for the second consecutive year, Western was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its exemplary service efforts.

“We work hand-in-hand with community leaders and organizations to provide opportunities for area residents, as well as for our students, faculty and staff within the community,” added WIU Provost and Academic Vice President and President-Elect Jack Thomas.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered by Congress in 1906, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center. Its current mission is to support needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence and structured opportunities to build knowledge. For more information, visit classifications.carnegiefoundation.org.
Baker named Distinguished Teacher by national association

WIU School of Agriculture Professor Andrew (Andy) Baker was recently recognized as a Distinguished Teacher at the American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE) North Central Region Conference held in Manhattan (KS). This regional recognition puts Baker in the running for national recognition at the annual AAAE conference in May, according to Andrew Thoron, Baker’s colleague and an assistant professor in the agricultural and biological engineering department/agricultural education program at the University of Illinois.

“Dr. Baker was nominated for the award by Lloyd Bell at the University of Nebraska,” Thoron explained. “Dr. Bell cited the reasons[s] for [Dr. Baker’s] nomination [as]: Andy’s rapport with his students, placement rate of his graduates (81 percent) into the teaching profession and retention rates within the teacher profession (72 percent).”

Thoron noted the AAAE’s Distinguished Teaching Award is based on the following factors: command of the discipline; teaching methodologies; pervasive caring/exemplifying the meaning of teacher mentor; commitment to the learning process; management of the learning process; enthusiasm in and for teaching; student evaluations of teaching; advising at undergraduate or graduate levels and communication skills.

According to Thoron, Baker received positive comments from recent WIU graduates and experienced teachers who have worked with Baker. Thoron said that Blaine Hartwick, a 2008 graduate of WIU’s agriculture education program who now teaches agricultural science at Triopia High School in Concord (IL), stated: “I feel fortunate to have come out of Dr. Baker’s exceptional agricultural education program, and I’m very glad I chose Western to obtain my bachelor’s degree. I’m also very grateful for the opportunities Dr. Baker and the School of Agriculture continue to offer me as a graduate of WIU.”

Stan Toepfer, agriculture instructor of 32 years at Eastland High School in Lanark (IL), added “Dr. Baker assisted me in investigating a new approach to evaluating students for learning and career placement. The whole process has excited me [so much about] the possibilities of a new approach to student learning that I have sent the report I submitted to my local school administrators for their evaluation, as well. If Dr. Baker had not taken interest in my need and had not spent time working with me, I would not have found this ‘gold mine’ of information. Dr. Baker’s empathy and interest in helping me exemplifies what agriculture education should be all about.”

Thoron noted that current WIU agricultural education student and Canton (IL) native Ashley Mason (who has served twice as the National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador for the National FFA Organization) said of her professor: “Dr. Baker shows us all what it means to be a good teacher/mentor by being actively involved in constructive activities in the community and at WIU, while still being accessible to his students and diligent in his teaching.”

Engineering scholarship established at WIU-QC

Western Illinois University-Quad Cities students interested in pursuing careers in engineering now have a new scholarship opportunity thanks to an agreement between Genesis Systems Group LLC, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities School of Engineering, and Scott County (IA) Schools. The Andy Zinn-Genesis Systems Group scholarship is designed to encourage, support and be enrolled in WIU-Quad Cities for the third and fourth years.

The $2,500 scholarship will be awarded annually and are renewable for four years. The value of each scholarship awarded is $10,000. Genesis Systems Group intends to award a four-year scholarship to one student each year for four years.

We are pleased to partner with Genesis Systems Group, Scott County Schools and local community colleges to support the training of new engineering students,” said WIU-QC Vice President, Planning and Technology Joe Rives.

William Pratt, director of the WIU School of Engineering, added, “Genesis Systems is one of several forward-thinking companies that sees the need for a ‘total community’ solution to the high technology education requirements of this community in the 21st Century. We are proud to partner with them and our colleagues from the community colleges and the Scott County School System.”

Zinn-Genesis Systems Group Scholarship requirements include: students must be graduates of a high school in Scott County; students must complete the job-shadowing program with Genesis Systems Group before high school graduation; students must be enrolled in Project Lead the Way courses or a vocational area of study (preference given to students with a course of study in both) and students must be enrolled in WIU’s linkages program with EICC or BHC for the first two years of college, and must be enrolled in WIU-Quad Cities for the third and fourth years.

“We are delighted to partner with Western Illinois University-Quad Cities in yet another way that is beneficial to our students,” said Patricia Keir, chancellor, Eastern Iowa Community College District.

“This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who has the desire and is willing to work hard to attain an education. Genesis Systems Group is to be commended for their investment in higher education and our future workforce,” added Rose Campbell, vice president of instruction and ITS at Black Hawk College. “The opportunity for these students to complete their engineering degree at WIU is another indicator of the collaboration that has developed among colleges and the community.”

Rock appointed to task force reviewing MAP grant proposal

Steven Rock, a professor in department of economics and decision sciences, was appointed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to a nine-member task force that reviewed the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to provide supplemental funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) through college opportunity investment notes (COINS).

The need-based MAP Program, created in 1967, was designed to help low- and middle-income Illinois residents attend the colleges of their choice within the state and last year provided assistance to more than 140,000 students. The ISAC proposed to sell $100 million of COINS annually to supplement state funding of the cash-strapped MAP program. The task force reported its findings and recommendations to the IBHE at the board’s Feb. 15 meeting. The task force met on a weekly basis and gathered testimony and data to analyze the proposal.

According to Rock, more than 120,000 lower income students are eligible for the program, but funds are not sufficient to help them.

“As a result, many students are unable to afford higher education. Given the state’s financial situation, it is unlikely that additional appropriations will be forthcoming,” Rock added. “The ISAC’s proposal to fund the program with an innovative idea [to tap investor rather than taxpayer funds. The higher salaries MAP recipients earn would be pledged to repay the bonds. This may be a ‘win-win’ situation, both for the students involved and the taxpayers of the state.”

Rock joined the WIU economics faculty in 1990.
Former Jewel-Osco, SuperValu leader: Spring 2011 CBT Executive in Residence

Western Illinois University alumnus Ed McManus ’73, a former senior vice president for SuperValu Inc., the largest wholesale food supplier in the U.S., was selected as the WIU College of Business and Technology (CBT) Spring 2011 Executive in Residence. McManus spoke to classes and provided business expertise on Western’s Macomb campus in February.

Originally from Peoria (IL), McManus graduated from WIU with a bachelor’s degree in business in 1973, and soon found that his college job of sacking groceries in Burlington (IA), at Benner Tea Co. (later acquired by ALDI foods), turned into a career opportunity.

McManus took on the responsibilities of serving as personnel and district manager and director of distribution for Benner/ALDI.

McManus went on to spend the bulk of his career (from 1978-2000) at American Stores Company, which included stores under Jewel-Osco and other names, and was then the third largest food and drug-store chain in the country.

His career with American Stores included serving as senior vice president of Jewel Distribution (1991-1995), during which time he helped re-position the Jewel marketing strategy by improving the handling of fresh food, and as president of Jewel-Osco (1995-1997), when he was responsible for the overall performance of 210 retail food- and drug stores under the Jewel and Osco names. As chief operating officer of marketing, logistics and technology (1997-2000), he was responsible for guiding all of the company-wide innovation, development and implementation in his division. He was recognized for his achievements with the CBT Distinguished Alumni award in 1998.

From 2000-2006, as senior vice president of SuperValu Inc., the company was the largest wholesale food supplier in the country. He was responsible for the central marketing functions supporting seven retail companies in the eastern U.S. McManus retired in 2010 as president/CEO of Hawk Operations and Acquisitions, which purchased 26 Cub Foods stores in the Chicagoland area in 2006. Under his leadership, the Cub stores were the third-highest market share leader in Chicago behind Jewel-Osco and Dominicks.

During his return to his alma mater, McManus spoke with students taking courses in supply chain management and marketing, provided expertise on topics ranging from the importance of finding a mentor, to the difference between managing “things” to managing and leading “people,” to the impact of the current economy and setting new expectations.

The CBT Executive in Residence program was initiated in 2005 by former professors Jim and Carolyn Tripp. Since then, the program has allowed for visits by executives representing businesses and organizations ranging from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group to The Boeing Company to Caterpillar, Inc.

For more information on participating in the program, contact Becky Paulsen, CBT director of development, at (309) 298-2442 or B-Paulsen@wiu.edu.

WIU-QC adds new major

In-demand option in supply chain management

The Western Illinois University College of Business and Technology (CBT) has announced the addition of a new major to be offered at the WIU-Quad Cities campus: supply chain management (SCM). Representatives from WIU and the CBT announced the new opportunity at a press conference on the WIU-QC campus Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The additional major will give WIU-QC students the opportunity to focus their undergraduate studies on an in-demand field, according to Tom Erekson, CBT dean.

“Market demand for SCM graduates in the Quad Cities and northern Illinois is especially strong because of the region’s status as a hub of transportation and logistics companies,” Erekson explained. “Employers continue to tell us that our graduates have the right skill set to add value to their companies.”

According to Bart Jennings, professor of supply chain management, graduates of the WIU SCM program are routinely recruited and hired by companies like Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), John Deere and DOT Foods. Both the number of interested companies and prospective students continue to grow, he added.

“During the past year, we’ve seen record interest in our SCM students, and have been contacted by dozens of companies that have never recruited at WIU before,” said Jennings, an expert in rail transportation who teaches courses in SCM. “WIU’s SCM program has been overwhelmed with requests from companies for information about our students. Recent graduates have received job offers following their junior year, they have received multiple offers and starting salaries continue to increase.”

John Drea, CBT associate dean, explained that the recent hiring of additional faculty has allowed for certain required courses to be offered every semester, rather than once per year.

The supply chain management curriculum has been offered in the QC for five years, but only as a minor. SCM was established as a degree program at WIU-Macomb in 2005, and is now one of WIU’s eight signature programs designated by Provost and Academic Vice President and President-Elect Jack Thomas. Western’s SCM offerings is one of the 40 programs nationally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Graduate students also have the option to pursue an SCM concentration within the WIU Master’s of Business Administration (MBA) degree program.

Drea noted that Western has offered a curriculum focused on transportation and logistics since the 1970s, in the form of a bachelor’s of business degree in transportation. Over time, the focus shifted to a broader logistics perspective, and in recent years the SCM major has included a required internship component that takes place early in the students’ academic plans. Since 2005, the CBT has organized SCM Day to connect students with employers in the field. Jennings noted that the event has grown from 15 students and eight employers in the first year to 55 students and 12 companies today.

A Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) grant proposal, “Increasing Access to Supply Chain Management Instruction,” was funded for 2006-2007 that allowed the development of four online SCM courses, including Introduction to SCM, SCM, and Customer Relationship Management, as well as the development of 2+2 agreements with ten Illinois community colleges.

The new major is another element in the continuing growth of the WIU-QC campus, noted Joe Rives, vice president for the Quad Cities campus, planning and technology.

“We are pleased and excited to be able to continue adding new academic programs at WIU-QC and expand educational opportunities that meet local and regional need,” said Rives. “Clearly the field of supply chain management is essential to our national and global economy, and the addition of this major will serve as another source of opportunity for the region.”

Jennings pointed out that Western’s addition of the new major reflects a national trend.

“The demand for supply chain management students is booming across the country,” he said. “With companies examining ways to improve their operations, they place more emphasis on the cost savings and service improvements that supply chain management delivers. For our students, this means multiple job offers, fast promotions and the opportunity to immediately make significant business contributions.”

For more information about the SCM major, graduate business studies, and other programs of study, visit wiu.edu/cbt/wiu.edu or wiu.edu/qc/wiu.
WIU MBA: 40 years in the making

A look back at the history of Western’s graduate program in business

It all started as the WIU Department of Business Education. From there, the University’s School of Business and then the College of Business (now called College of Business and Technology)—and the Master of Business Administration program—was born.

According to the book “First Century: A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University,” in the mid-1960s, the head of the Department of Business Education, Robert Ferguson, convinced then-President A.L. Knoblauch to develop the School of Business due to the increase in business students not involved in the education side of the department. The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved WIU’s School of Business in 1966, with Ferguson serving as interim dean and acting chair of four new departments: accounting, economics, business administration and business teacher education. Later that year, the School of Business became the College of Business. In 1967, Howard Nudd was hired as the dean of the College of Business. By the time he retired in 1984, the College of Business had more than 3,000 majors and a first-class reputation.

Around the same time as the change to the College of Business, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was taking shape. With many young faculty members joining the college straight out of graduate programs themselves, Marketing Professor Emeritus Robert Jefferson said there was much support and enthusiasm for the endeavor.

“The program truly has undergone a remarkable and impressive transformation in the past 50 years,” Jefferson said.

Ag/IIRA capacity building project recognized

A project co-directed by three representatives of WIU has been recognized by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as one of the agency’s most successful projects funded worldwide over the past three years. The project, “Capacity Building in Southern Mexico,” co-directed by Winthrop Phippen, professor in Western’s School of Agriculture; Christopher Merrett, director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA); and John Gruidl of the IIRA, provided help to small farm and business operations in Chiapas, Mexico. Because of its success, the WIU project will receive an additional $300,000 in funding from USAID to expand its work over the next three years.

“It was quite a surprise when I got the call from USAID,” said Phippen. “It’s very unusual for an agency to extend a project for an additional three years.”

According to Phippen, the project, which started in 2006, focuses on the Universidad Tecnológica de la Selva (UTS), a university in the rural, southern Mexican state of Chiapas. The project has increased the capability of UTS to help small businesses by training its faculty members and students.

“For example, Chris and John have led several initial workshops in Chiapas to train faculty on effective outreach methods and also to help faculty organize into effective outreach teams,” Phippen said.

Faculty from WIU and Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (UAQ), have led additional workshops in central Mexico. As a result, UTS went on to provide technical assistance to small, rural producers, especially coffee and milk producers, and small eco-tourism centers.

“UTS faculty have led 48 workshops for rural producers, on topics such as improving production methods, developing marketing plans and attracting international tourists,” Phippen noted.

“Although collaborating with universities and community developers working outside the U.S. allows us to share our expertise and experience, we find that we also gain important insights on the issues common to all rural areas. We believe that we gain as much as we contribute,” Merrett added.
Illinois Soybean Association establishes new scholarship

Western Illinois University students interested in pursuing careers in crop sciences will now have a new scholarship opportunity through an agreement between the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and Western. The scholarship is designed to encourage, support and award students interested in a future career in the area of crop production.

“Our goal is to invest in a program that supports students interested in crop sciences and who can ultimately fill much-needed industry positions. Global population growth is going to create greater demand for food and a greater need to produce more food per acre,” said Ron Moore, ISA chairman and a soybean farmer from Roseville (IL). “Students often overlook what can be exciting and well-paying career opportunities in crop sciences. We hope to help attract talented young people to address the challenge of feeding the world.”

Crop sciences job opportunities include crop production specialists who provide field consultation to plant breeders and scientists who use biotechnology and molecular techniques to develop new genetic traits for soybean growth and end products.

“We are pleased to partner with ISA to support the training of new crop scientists to be involved in soybean research and production,” said William Bailey, WIU School of Agriculture director. “At present, the pool of trained crop scientists is depleted. WIU and the ISA are going to combat this trend.”

ISA Crop Production Scholarships will be available for the 2011-12 academic year. For more information and scholarship applications, contact the WIU School of Agriculture at (309) 298-1080.

New scholarship established for international women

Gift from longtime supporters will support educating women in agriculture

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95

Rodney and Bertha Fink ’76, longtime friends of Western Illinois University, recently committed $25,000 to establish a scholarship in their names. The Rodney and Bertha Fink International Student Scholarship at WIU will provide awards to female students from emerging or developing countries majoring in agriculture or agriculture business.

Bertha received her MS-ED in 1976 from Western and served as an instructor of health sciences from 1976-1981. Rodney’s ties to the School of Agriculture go back to 1968, when he joined the faculty as an associate professor. He went on to serve as chair of the department before being named dean of the College of Applied Sciences in 1974. Since his retirement in 1993, he has spent 15 years working with projects associated with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and voluntary projects in many countries around the world.

According to Rodney, when he was teaching agriculture in the early 1970s, the department began to see an influx of international students in agriculture, particularly from Africa. In these countries, as well as in other emerging and developing areas, women do 70-80 percent of the farming, yet were (and still are) often not afforded the same scholarship opportunities as their male counterparts, he noted.

“At the same time, women in this country were just beginning to formally study agriculture. It was an interesting time, in many ways. I felt it was important for a student from Illinois to sit next to a student from Africa, and for the young men to consider the young women as equals,” he added. “I was trying, back then, to diversify the student body. Bertha and I have been all around the world, and have witnessed the role of women in agriculture economies. We want to address the inequities for these women, and we want to do it here through Western.

“We have put a lot of ourselves into this institution, and have also received a great deal from it. Between Bertha and our four children (three of whom are daughters), our family has earned a total of six degrees from Western,” Rodney said. “Our family has done well here, and we hope to help Western continue to do well.”

The couple also has a long history of generosity to WIU. In addition to each of their professional contributions, the Finks have previously made other significant gifts. In 2007, they donated 77 acres of land to establish the Fink Environmental Studies Field Laboratory and Conservancy and, at the same time, created the Bertha Grieshaber Fink Scholarship in Nursing. “We are grateful to the Finks, and pleased that they chose to make this commitment during International Education Week. This scholarship strengthens Western’s globalization initiatives and assists in recruiting international students,” said President Al Goldfarb.

“We are excited about this generous gift from Rodney and Bertha,” added Richard Carter, director of the School of Distance Learning, International Studies and Outreach. “The scholarships will be utilized to provide new educational opportunities for international students, who in many cases do not have the same access to higher education as students in this country.”
1959
Marcine Heaton Wilson MS-ED ’63, Cadiz, KY, is a retired school teacher. (mwilson04@bellsouth.net)

1961
Oliver “Ollie” Wilson MS-ED ’64, Cadiz, KY, is a retired school administrator. (swilson26@bellsouth.net)

1974
Scott Carlberg MA ’75, Charlotte, NC, was the recipient of the Energy Leadership Award from the Charlotte Business Journal in January 2011.
Jeffrey Clark, Munice, IN, was the recipient of the 2009-2010 Outstanding Faculty Service Award at Ball State University and the 2010 W.W. Patty Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.
Lawrence “Larry” Griswold, Hamilton, Bermuda, is the senior vice president and claims manager at Iron-Starr Excess Agency Ltd. (larry.griswold@ironstarrexcess.com)
Mike Sondag, Olive Branch, MS, is the general manager at Lil’ Angels Photography.

1975
Mark Hinrichsen, West Chester, OH, is an adjunct professor for the business information systems department at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. (tininisbull@cinci.rr.com)

1976
William Poncin, Macomb, was elected Circuit Judge for the State of Illinois.

1977
Dale Megsas MS, Lakewood, OH, is a staff writer at presssportsmagazine.com. (boomba14@hotmail.com)
Ray Ochronowicz, Bolingbrook, is the director of parks and recreation at St. Charles Park District.
Douglas Wakeley, Bartlett, is the vice president of the business department at TM Floyd & Company in Schaumburg. (djwakeley@comcast.net)

1978
Karen Bock Poncin MBA ’82, Macomb, is an operations manager for Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at WIU.

1980
Cathy Cook, Sevierville, TN, is the superintendent of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

1981
Tim Catalano, Des Plaines, is an associate director of supply chain management at Aselias U.S. Technologies, Inc. in Deerfield. (tcatalano@aol.com)
Vincent Stewart, Vienna, VA, is the director of intelligence for the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, DC. (vstewart68508@msn.com)

1982
Delbert Ford MS ’84, Springfield, is a state safety & occupational health manager at the Illinois Army National Guard.
Kenneth Grether, Jr., Apple Valley, MN, is the senior agency trainer for Farmers Insurance Group in Bloomington. (kgolfe@gmail.com)

1983
Elizabeth Boyd, St. Louis, MO, is a shopper insights director at Anheuser-Busch, Inc. (lizboyd@yahoo.com)

1984
Todd Graham, Batavia, is a senior broker/consultant at VistaNational.
Stan Wischnowski, West Chester, PA, is the editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer.

1985
Sally Miller Breuneman, Menomonie, WI, is an accounts payable/payroll specialist at Mayo Health System. (sbruneman@charter.net)
Bob Niemi, Lewis Center, OH, is the executive director of Ohio Mortgage Bankers Association.

1986
Susan Forney, Dover, FL, is a product manager at Sulphuric Acid Trading Company, Inc. in Tampa.
Gail Barski Galuppo, St. Charles, is the senior vice president of Worldwide Strategy and Marketing for HP.
Rachelle Carter Hollinshead, Vandalia, is the county director at the University of Illinois Extension in Effingham. (rhollins@illinois.edu)

1987
Andrew Eberle MS ’89 SSP ’92, Whangarei, New Zealand, is a registered psychologist at the Ministry of Education. (andrew.eberle@mininedu.govt.nz)

1988
Laura BonDurant MS ’93, Washington, DC, is the assistant dean at American University.
Richard Garner, Green Bay, WI, is a regional security manager for Georgia-Pacific.

1989
Michael Zackavec, Tinley Park, is a detective for South Holland Police Department. (mgzck3140@aol.com)

1990
Shailesh Maheshwari, Youngstown, NY, is a manager at ATR. (jandu@hotmail.com)
1996
Bob Newport, Crystal Lake, is the executive director of the Round Lake Area Park District.
Jennifer Clemens Sweborg, MA ‘99, Monmouth, is a criminal justice instructor at Brown Mackie College Quad Cities in Bettendorf, IA.
Eric Weiler MS ‘98, Coralville, IA, is the annual giving director at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. (eweiler@kirkwood.edu)

1997
Rebecca Tutaj Gengler, Big Rock, is a senior director at Homemades Gourmet.
Robert “Bob” Gillum ED SP, Springfield, was named the 2011 Illinois Superintendent of the Year.
Mark Hamilton, Dunlap, was named to the Board of Directors for SOCAP International (Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals). (skipsq@gmail.com)
Douglas Panizzi, Chicago, is an underwriter for Bank of America.
Daniel Sweborg, Monmouth, is the owner of Sweberg’s Remodeling. (sweborgremodeling@hotmail.com)
Michael Vidades, Chicago, works for the City of Chicago in public relations. (michaelv1999@aol.com)
Aaron Woodruff, Colfax, is the interim chief of ISU police.

1998
Nikisha Wright Anderson MS ‘00, Peoria, is the transfer center program coordinator at Illinois Central College and was selected by InterBusiness Issues as one of Peoria’s 40 Leaders Under 40.
James “Coach” Eden, Snellville, GA, is the co-owner of Gwinnett Umpires Association, and has been named a special alumnus initiate into the Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Order at Emory University and serves on the House Corporation and Alumni Advisory Council. (jedien1@gmail.com)

1999
Jonathon Hallmark, Barrington, is the principal at Highland Middle School District # 70.
Kevin Zihlman, Iowa City, IA, is an associate director of compliance at the University of Iowa.

2000
Jamie Stortzman McDonald, Foxboro, MA, has been appointed Governor Elect Lincoln Chaffee’s Deputy Chief of Staff.
Melissa McIntyre Panizzi, Chicago, is the executive director at Edison Park Chamber of Commerce. (melissa@edisonpark.com)
Laura Frisse Pittenger, Flanagan, is a certified athletic trainer at OSF St. James Medical Center in Pontiac. (laura.e.pittenger@osfhealthcare.org)
Michael Plath, Rockford, is the store manager at Shoe Carnival.

2001
Jerry Deans, Ajo, AZ, is a border patrol agent for the U.S. Border Patrol. (michaelv1999@aol.com)
Spring Kuczwarz Hyde MA ‘04, Lincoln, is an assistant professor of English and Humanities at Lincoln College. (s Hyde@lincolncollege.edu)
Riley Oncken, Sycamore, is a partner in the law firm Smith, Wykes & Oncken, P.C.
BJ Supple MS, Norwalk, IA, is the corporate events director at the American Heart Association in Des Moines.
Corey Yager Wibbell, Monmouth, is the crime analyst at the Illinois Trooper’s Association and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

2002
Michelle Thompson Anderson MS-ED ‘99, Duhinda, is a high school guidance counselor at Mercer County School District # 404 in Aledo. (manderson2002@gmail.com)
Julie Berghscheider, Rushville, is a graphic designer at Beardstown Newspapers, Inc.
Matthew Clemens, Valparaiso, IN, is the store manager at Quinan and Fabish Music Company.
Emily Knox Lunt, Canton, IL, is the plant manager at Shell Oil Products US.
Shaun Nickel, Tampa, FL, is a special agent for the Department of Justice – Drug Enforcement Administration.
David Pohlsman, Aurora, is the recruiting manager at Patrick Engineering.

2003
Katie Kellum Borth MBA ‘94, Port Byron, is a dealer parts marketing analyst at John Deere in Milan. (kkellum13@gmail.com)
Cory Dirkse MS, Harlingen, TX, is the general manager for Rio Grande Valley Whitewings. (cory@whitewingsbaseball.com)
Natalie Adcock Divan, Macomb, is a graphic designer associate at WIU.
Joseph Dodd, Alton, is a process server of supporting services at Simmons Firm in East Alton and received his MPA from SIU–Edwardsville.

Dawn Etchason, Bolingbrook, is an academic advisor at DeVry, Inc. 

Lucas Keller, Bayonne, NJ, is an international flight attendant for Continental Airlines. (lak70@hotmail.com)

2004

Rodney Blue, Galesburg, is the coordinator of transfer services and minority outreach at Carl Sandburg College.

Philip Dalcano, Westmont, is the funeral director and embalmer at Woodlawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park in Forest Park. 

Christina Morrell-Adair, East Moline, is a social worker for Bethany for Children and Families.

Jaime Brown Pedigo, Paola, KS, is a crop insurance underwriter for ProAg in Lenexa.

2005

Melissa Robinson Newman, Kewanee, is a 5th grade teacher at Kewanee Community Unit School.

2006

Andrea Higgins MS, Onalaska, WI, is a first year experience/student success coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. (higgins.andr@uwlax.edu)

Amy Turney Tucker, Mount Juliet, TN, is a senior closing coordinator at Caterpillar Financial Services Corp.

2007

Kaytlin Leonard Dalcano, Westmont, is an installation coordinator at Footprint Retail Services in Lisle.

Geoff Guist, Waunakee, WI, is a technical support specialist at Esker Software in Madison.

Kara Giedd Guist, Waunakee, WI, is the office manager at Discover MediaWorks, Inc. in Madison.

Kyle Lester, Macomb, is the sales team leader at Prairie Radio Communications.

Benjamin Reed, Peoria, is the project engineer at Power Construction Company in Schaumburg.

David Ridley, Peru, is the press room supervisor at HCC Inc. in Mendota. (dridley@hccincorporated.com)

Steve Sowers, Carbondale, is the assistant director of marketing – coordinator of group sales and special events at Southern Illinois University Athletics Department. (ssowers@athletics.siu.edu)

Elizabeth Van Meter MS ’08, St. Louis, MO, is the ticket sales coordinator for the St. Louis Rams.

2008

Lauren Carrier, Houston, TX, is a communications assistant at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Meghan McLaughlin Dirth MA ’08, OshKosh, WI, is a customer service representative for Aurora Health Care. (meghan.dirth@gmail.com)

Jill Talley Mason, Burlington, IA, is the youth and adults support director at the Burlington Area Community YMCA YMWA. (jill@burlingtony.org)

Larry Rauch, Frankfort, received a master’s degree from Governors State University in February 2011. (rauch@frankfortfire.org)

Michael Reed, Woodridge, is a police officer for the Woodridge Police Department.

Cara Smith, Mendota, is a correctional officer at the Illinois Department of Corrections in Sheridan. (ca-smith3@wiu.edu)

2009

Anthony Dirth, OshKosh, WI, is the intramural coordinator at University of Wisconsin – OshKosh. (dirtha@uwosh.edu)

Kari Osborne MS, St. Louis, MO, is the assistant director of intramural and club sports at Washington University.

Scott Ronald, Gillespie, graduated from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City, MO, and will be serving Troop C Zone 7 as a state trooper in Weldon Spring, MO.

Derek Schlesinger MS, Kansas City, MO, is an account executive for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Zachary Wang, East Peoria, graduated from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City, MO, and will be serving Troop C Zone 7 as a state trooper in Weldon Spring, MO.

Dan Zierfuss MS, Galesburg, is the head cross country, track and field coach at Knox College.

2010

Sean Daniels, Pittsburgh, PA, is a Lieutenant with the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department.

Ellen Engh MS, Decatur, is the residential communities coordinator at Millikin University. (elenb@millkin.edu)

Kathleen Hamilton, Collinsville, is a certified athletic trainer at ApexNetwork Physical Therapy in Maryville. (khamilton@apexnetworkpt.com)

Carolyn Higgason, Taylorville, is a microcomputer specialist III at SIU School of Medicine in Springfield. (higgason@yahoo.com)

Emily Sinclair, Petersburg, is a case manager and program assistant at Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois in Springfield. (esk Sinclair@aol.com)

Jason Williams, Irving, TX, is a linebacke for the Carolina Panthers.

Marriages and Civil Unions


Jaime Brown ’04 and Ben Pedigo, Nov. 6, 2010.

Melissa Coyle ’08 and Erik Benjamin, Nov. 6, 2010.


Amber Knott ’03 MS ’05 and TJ Hardy, Oct. 16th 2010.


Lacey Maher ’03 MS-ED ’08 and Charles Dean, Mar. 12, 2011.

Meghan McLaughlin ’08 MA ’10 and Anthony Dirth MS ’09, June 22, 2010.


Births and Adoptions


Brigitta Modglin Atkins ’96 and Danny, a daughter, Sierra Kelley, Nov. 18, 2010.

Michelle Thompson Anderson ’02 MS-ED ’09 and Bryan Anderson ’02, a son, Edmund, May 11, 2010.

Amy Attig Degelman ’01 and Seth, a son, Zeke Robert, May 22, 2010.

Rebecca Tutaj Gengler ’97 and Darrin Gengler ’97, a daughter, Katarina Claire, Jan. 26, 2010.

Ashley German-Cooper ’98 and Ben, a daughter, Alivia Renae, Sept. 10, 2010.


Andrew Lancaster ’02 and Crystal Dunn Lancaster ’02 MS ’04, a daughter, Reyd Lynne, May 7, 2010.

Megan Coons Leahy ’01 and Thomas, a son, Finnegan Thomas, Oct. 20, 2010.

Emily Knox Lunt ’02 and Ryan, a son, Brody Parker, Dec. 8, 2010.

Tonia Hastings Nowakowski ’01 and Aaron Nowakowski ’02, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, Dec. 7, 2010.


Kelly Kocak Plath ’05 and Michael Plath ’00, a daughter, Addison Makenzie, Oct. 17, 2009.

Chicago Alumni & Friends Event

Lyric Opera House, Dec. 11, 2010

Front row, l-r: Brad Sims ’61 MS-ED ’67, Germaine Hesiak, Joe Maxwell ’71, Diane Jagger Maxwell, Alumni Council member Carol Lewis Scott ’70, Jan Wareham DeYoung MS ’79, Miki Morrison ’84 MA ’86, Greg Anerino ’69 MS-ED ’72, Ginny Christenson Helm ED SP ’78, Gavin Tun MS ’89, Sue Orton Bloecks ’69, Julie Tun, Karen Fiorenza ’77, Gary Griffin, Jim DeYoung and President Al Goldfarb. Back row, l-r: Alumni Council member Roger Clawson ’77, Kathy Mitzner, Robert Mitzner ’77, Pat Savage Clawson, Patty Koenigsaecker, Gilbert Koenigsaecker MS ’99, Jim Haleem ’69, Ruth Trail Anerino ’69, Carolynn Bradford Swenson ’69, Tom Helm, Barry Swenson ’69, Board of Trustees member Bill Epperly ’68, Maureen Jones Gries, Jim Gries ’68, Laura DeCroocq ’83, Heather Hesiak and Michael Hesiak.

Detroit Alumni & Friends Event – Lions vs. Bears

Pregame Social & Football Game

Ford Field, Dec. 5, 2010
Deaths

Lois C. Bradshaw, LaHarpe, Apr. 9, 2010.

WiU vs. Loyola Pregame Social & Women’s Basketball Game

Hamilton’s & Loyola University, Dec. 22, 2010

Chicago Alumni & Friends Event

Howl at the Moon, Dec. 13, 2010

Front row, l-r: TJ Buckingham ’08, Diane Dalcomo ’10, Kris Kiefer Mackey, Alumni Council member Lisa Lyons ’03 MS ’05, Austin Cook, Jason Cook and Trish Hammond ’04. Back row, l-r: Luis Disiotaur, President Al Goldfarb, Bernie Dalcomo, Matt Sheehan ’10, Tom Fortuna ‘75 MA ‘78, Board of Trustees member Bill Epperly ’68, Allison Winchester ’07, Kathy Grele ’07, Twila Ash ’00, Christina Frank-Prothero ’08 and Alumni Council member Jay O’Brien ‘78.

Alumni Achievement Award recipients

Sherman Hall, Dec. 17, 2010

L-r: Alumni Achievement Award recipients Jerilyn K. Scardina ’75 and Harlan L. Watson ’67, 2010 Honorary Doctorate recipient John D. Welty ’66 and Alumni Achievement Award recipient John W. Gay II ’69. Not pictured is International Alumni Achievement Award recipient Datuk Kamaruddin Mohd Ismail ’79 MA ’81.

Julia Lee Pohlman ’03 and David Pohlman ’02, twin sons, Carter David and Blake Nicholas, Aug. 12, 2010.
Benjamin Reed ’07 and Molly, a daughter, Ella Marie, Oct. 3, 2010.
Eric Schafer ’99 MA ’02 and Marcie, a daughter, Emilie Margaret, Feb. 4, 2010.
James Wayne ’03 MS ’06 and Rachel Von Holten Wayne ’05, a daughter, Mackenzie Grace, Dec. 4, 2010.

Deaths

Lois C. Bradshaw, LaHarpe, Apr. 9, 2010.

Eleanor A. Bailey Patterson, Ft. Worth, TX, Oct. 29, 2010.
1937 Lewis L. McAllister, Corpus Christi, TX, June 5, 2007.
1941 Margaret E. McDonald Hester, Palatine, Oct. 21, 2010.
1945 Don L. Vier, Macomb, Nov. 5, 2010.
1971 Mark C. Herbert, Tamuning, Guam, Nov. 21, 2010.
Six students accepted into hospital programs

Six Western Illinois University students in the clinical laboratory science (CLS) program have been accepted into three affiliated hospitals for a CLS one-year program. Area Illinois hospitals at which the students will be working are OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria; Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Hines and St. John’s Hospital, Springfield. The program is competitive, with only six seats available at St. Francis, six-to-eight seats available at Hines VA Hospital and four-to-six seats available at St. John’s Hospital.

“All of our affiliated hospitals have more than 10 other affiliations with area universities and colleges in nearby states as they do with Western Illinois University,” said Vicki Walters ’00 MS ’03, biology department academic adviser. “In years past, we have had maybe one or two students accepted. Last year, each hospital accepted one of our students. We are so proud of our students who have successfully been accepted into this highly competitive program.”

“We are grateful for the invaluable support from our affiliated hospital directors for making our Clinical Laboratory Science program such a success,” added Biological Sciences Interim Department Chair Michael Romano.

Walters makes visits to affiliated hospitals each fall to build and maintain the relationship between the two programs and to establish goals to get Western students accepted. The biological sciences department also hosts a CLS luncheon, where the three hospital directors come to campus and speak to the CLS students and other interested students.

“We applaud our biology/CLS students and the administrators, faculty, staff and advisers that have worked with our students, who took one-third of the CLS seats this year. That’s a wonderful accomplishment and a great honor for WIU and our students,” Walters said.

The six students accepted into the program are: Matthew Cuello (Hines), senior, biology (microbiology) major/chemistry minor from Homer Glen (IL); Shannon Fleming (St. John’s), senior, biology (microbiology) major/law enforcement and justice administration and forensic chemistry minor from Winfield (IL); Alyssa Jeri (Hines), senior, clinical laboratory science major from Crystal Lake (IL); Ian Kopp (St. John’s), senior, biology (microbiology) major/chemistry and zoology minor from Oregon (IL); Lauren Moenning (St. Francis), junior, clinical laboratory science major from Quincy (IL) and Katie Ohlwhine (Hines), senior, clinical laboratory science major/chemistry minor from Polo (IL).
Refer a Student to Western Illinois University

Do you know a student who would be a great fit for Western Illinois University? Let us know by completing the form below. We also welcome recommendations for students who may wish to transfer to WIU.

The WIU Admissions Office will personally follow up with the student and give him or her the option of registering as a prospective student. The student will receive information from WIU, will be added to our contact list and will be invited to special events in his or her area and in Macomb.

The student will also be notified that you took the time to refer him or her to Western Illinois University (if you would like us to share that information).

Student’s Information

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
High School Name: __________________________ Expected High School Graduation Date: _________
E-mail: __________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________
Home Phone: __________________________
Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Referred By

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Graduation Year: __________________________ Relationship to Student: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________
Cell Phone: __________________________ Home Phone: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

*Why would this student be a good candidate for WIU?

________________________________________________________________________

☐ Yes, I would like to pay the application fee for this student when he/she applies.
If this student chooses not to apply:

☐ Please use the application fee for another deserving student.
☐ OR
☐ Please refund me.

☐ Yes, I would like this student to know I recommended him/her.
☐ No, I would prefer this student not know I recommended him/her.

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Visit WIU mobile, and enter Leatherneck Country right from your phone at m.wiu.edu!
The New WIU Credit Card
The WIU Alumni Association is pleased to announce a new partnership for our credit card program. INTRUST Bank, one of the oldest banking institutions in the Midwest, is our choice to provide the new card, and if you choose the new Western Illinois University Platinum Visa®, you will be supporting your alma mater in many ways - helping to fund student scholarships, the Western News publication, Alumni and Friends events around the country AND your University while earning great rewards for yourself. Apply for the WIU Credit Card

www.wiu.edu/alumni/credit_card.php
(800) 222-7458

Class Rings
The WIU class ring is a tangible symbol of the bond between all WIU graduates and the institution that contributed to shaping their future.

www.wiu.edu/alumni/benefits/ring.php
(866) BALFOUR • (866) 225-3687

Diploma Frames
Choose from a variety of designs to commemorate your outstanding collegiate accomplishment.

www.wiu.edu/alumni/benefits/diploma.php
(866) 633-0579

Rockenetwork
A free online social network provided exclusively for WIU alumni to reconnect with friends and classmates and to network.

www.rockenetwork.wiu.edu
(800) 222-7458

Insurance
Our partnership with American Insurance Administrators offers a variety of programs, including comprehensive short-and-long-term medical, disability, dental, and travel insurance.

www.wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 922-1245

Liberty Mutual Partnership
An exclusive discount of up to 15 percent off home and auto insurance rates and much more.

www.wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 981-2372

WIU License Plate
If you have a car or class-B truck registered in Illinois and would like to support Western, order your WIU license plates today. Vanity and personalized plates are available. Also, a mobile unit is periodically in the University Union staffed by the Secretary of State for certain driver and vehicle services.

www.wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 252-8980

Recreation Center Memberships
WIU alumni and their spouses and domestic partners may purchase memberships.

www.wiu.edu/alumni/benefits/campusrec.php
(309) 298-2733
## Upcoming WIU Alumni & Friends Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Black Alumni Black Tie Scholarship Gala at Martinique Banquet Complex-Grand Ballroom, 8200 S. Cicero Ave., Burbank, IL. 6-8 p.m. Social.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social, hors d’oeuvres &amp; cash bar — $20/person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boston Alumni &amp; Friends Social at Boston College Club, Library, 36th Floor, 100 Federal St., Boston, MA. 6-8 p.m. Social.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social, hors d’oeuvres &amp; cash bar — $20/person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Quad Cities Alumni &amp; Friends Event-Leatherneck Football Spring Scrimmage &amp; Social in the Quad Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Bulls vs. Suns at The Crossroads Bar &amp; Grill. 1120 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL. 7:00 p.m. Social at BlackFinn American Saloon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Fourth Annual Leatherneck Reunion Football Scrimmage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>Naperville Alumni &amp; Friends Social 6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>“The Western Open” 12:30 P.M. Shotgun Start Seven Bridges Golf Club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Watch the Chicago Cubs at the Chicago White Sox.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Registration Form for WIU Alumni & Friends Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Class year:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>City, State, Zip:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home phone:</td>
<td>Home e-mail:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell phone:</td>
<td>Do you want to receive text messages from the university? Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of business:</td>
<td>Job title:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work phone:</td>
<td>Work e-mail:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work address:</td>
<td>City, State, Zip:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of event:</td>
<td>Number attending/Name(s):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Payment Options:

- [ ] Check
- [ ] Credit card

**Credit Card Information:**

- Card #:__________________________
- Exp. date:__________________________
- Three digit security code:__________
- Name on card:_____________________
- Signature:__________________________

**Fax to:** (309) 298-2914 or mail form to:

WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390